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ADVENTURE
SERIES

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SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG

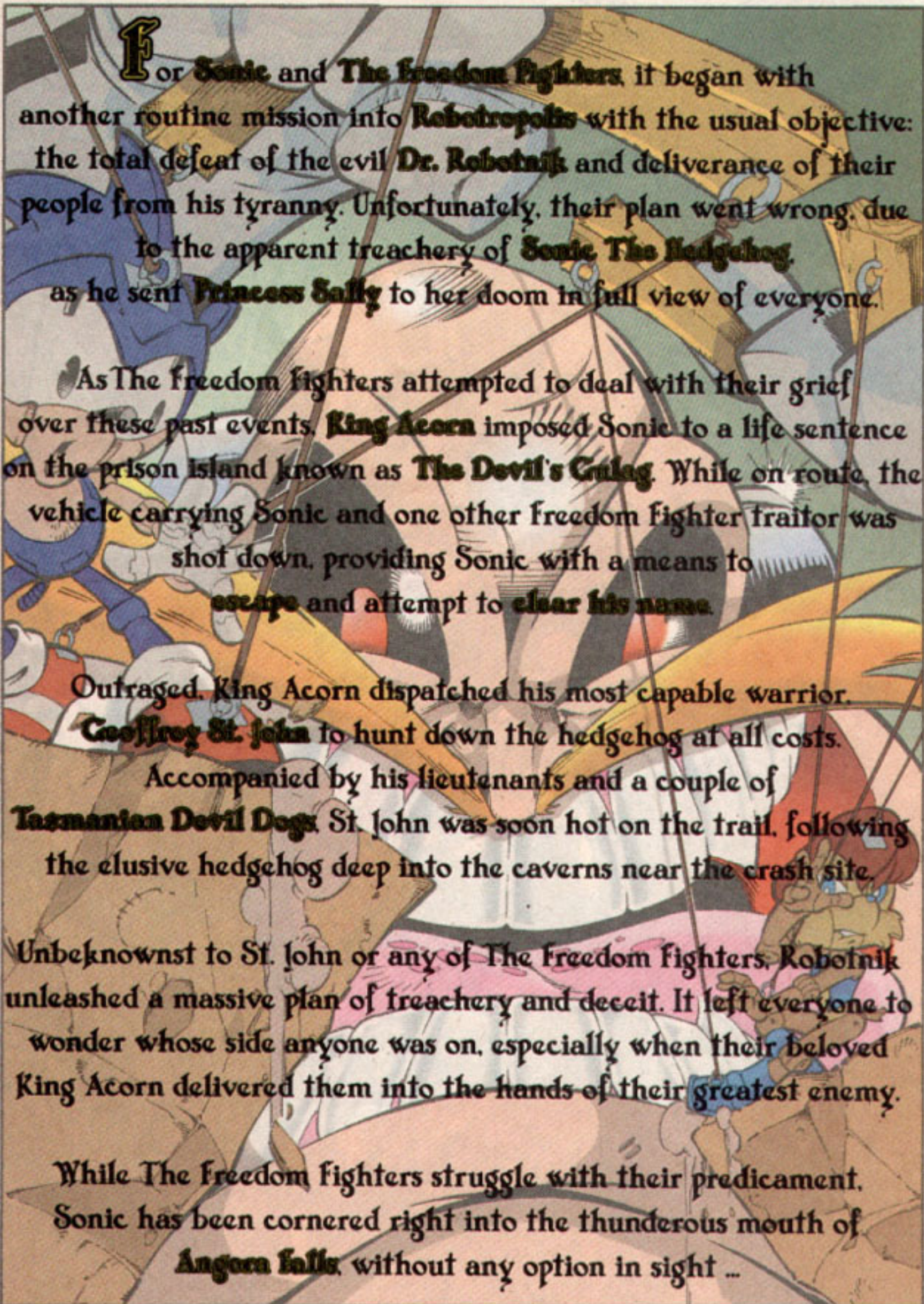
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16977



ENDGAME
PART 3 OF 4

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For **Sonic** and **The Freedom Fighters**, it began with another routine mission into **Robotropolis** with the usual objective: the total defeat of the evil **Dr. Robotnik** and deliverance of their people from his tyranny. Unfortunately, their plan went wrong, due to the apparent treachery of **Sonic The Hedgehog**, as he sent **Princess Sally** to her doom in full view of everyone.

As **The Freedom Fighters** attempted to deal with their grief over these past events, **King Acorn** imposed Sonic to a life sentence on the prison island known as **The Devil's Gulag**. While on route, the vehicle carrying Sonic and one other Freedom Fighter traitor was shot down, providing Sonic with a means to **escape** and attempt to **clear his name**.

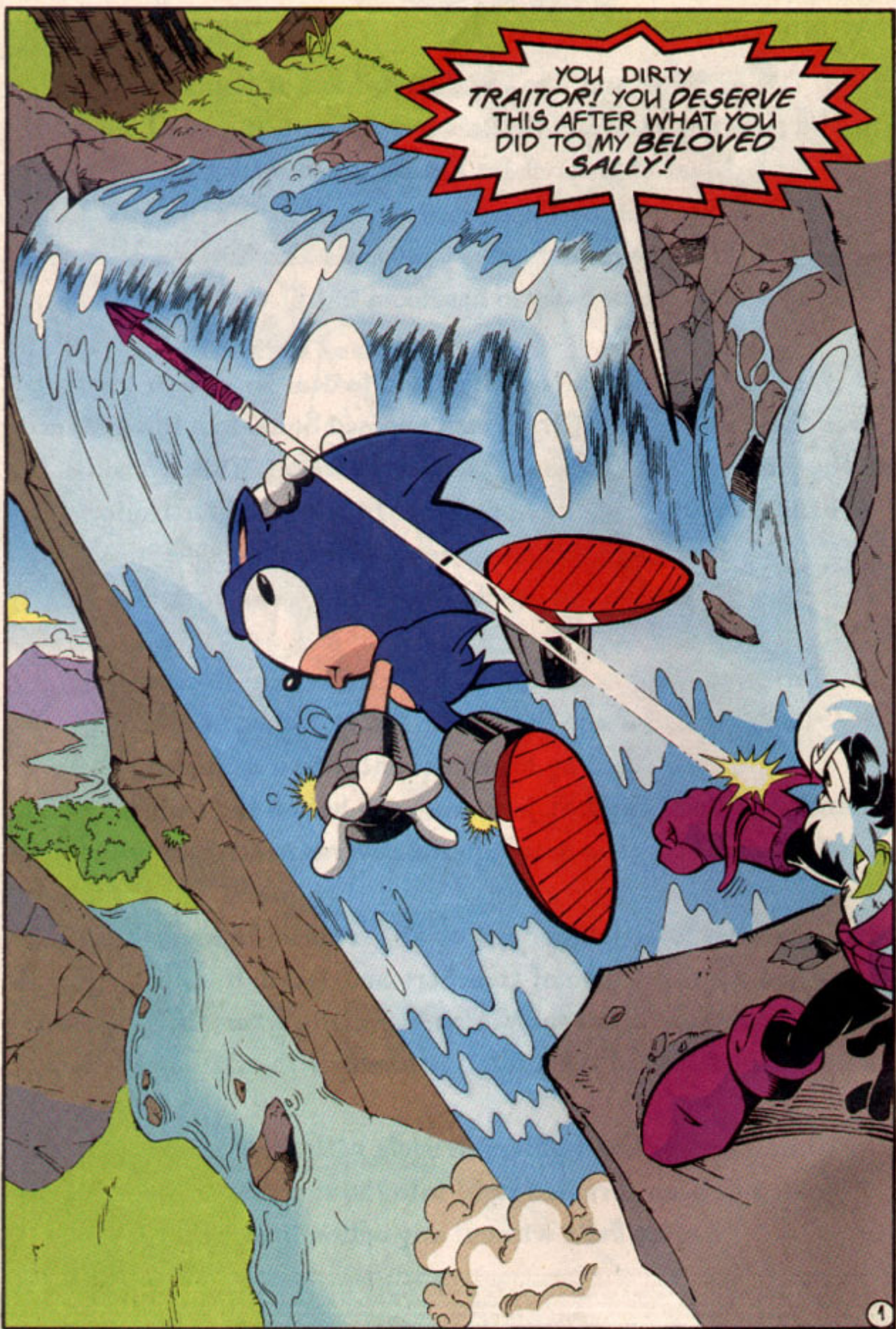
Outraged, **King Acorn** dispatched his most capable warrior, **Geoffrey St. John** to hunt down the hedgehog at all costs.

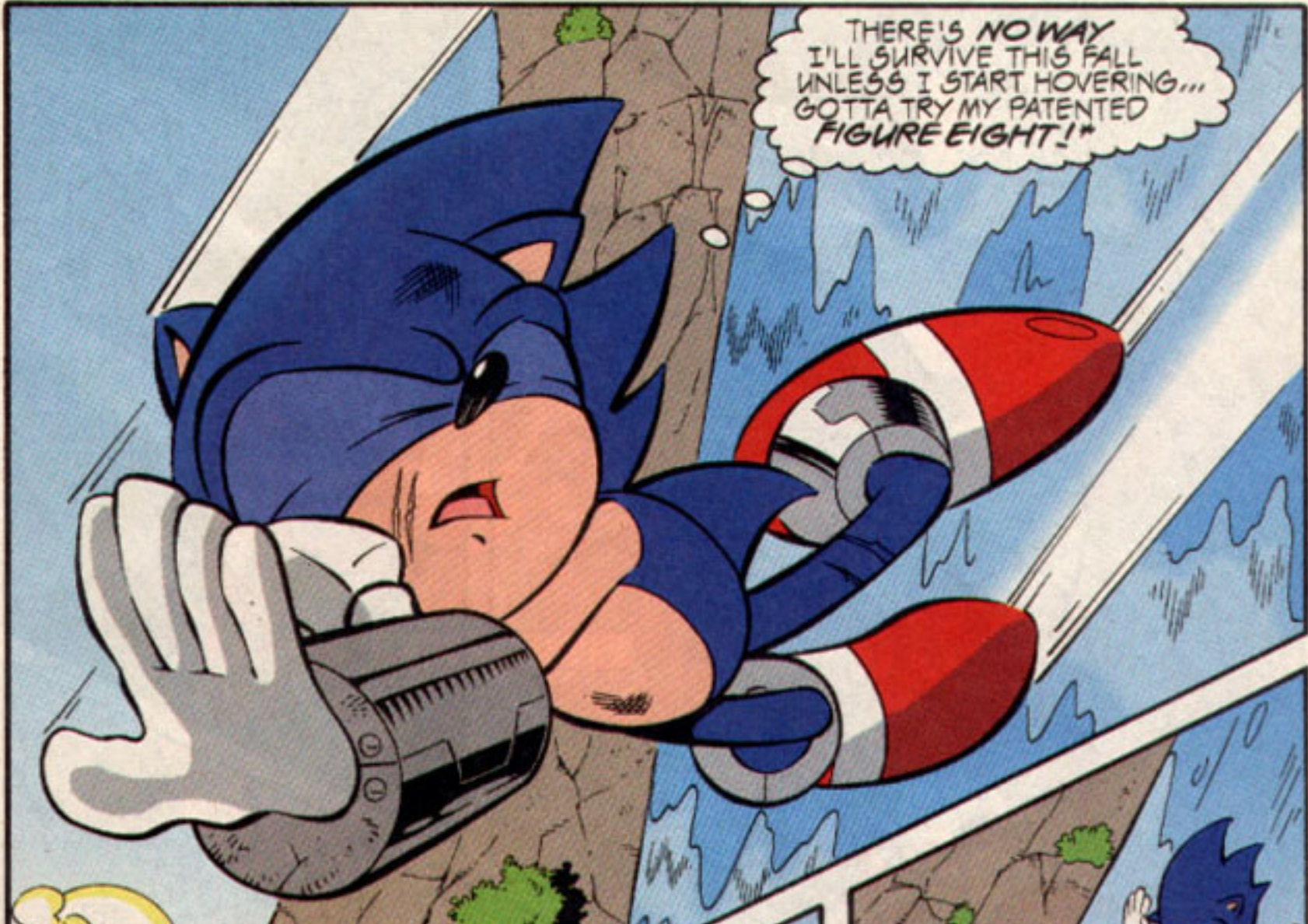
Accompanied by his lieutenants and a couple of **Tasmanian Devil Dogs**, St. John was soon hot on the trail, following the elusive hedgehog deep into the caverns near the crash site.

Unbeknownst to St. John or any of **The Freedom Fighters**, **Robotnik** unleashed a massive plan of treachery and deceit. It left everyone to wonder whose side anyone was on, especially when their beloved **King Acorn** delivered them into the hands of their greatest enemy.

While **The Freedom Fighters** struggle with their predicament, Sonic has been cornered right into the thunderous mouth of **Angora Falls**, without any option in sight ...

YOU DIRTY
TRAITOR! YOU DESERVE
THIS AFTER WHAT YOU
DID TO MY BELOVED
SALLY!





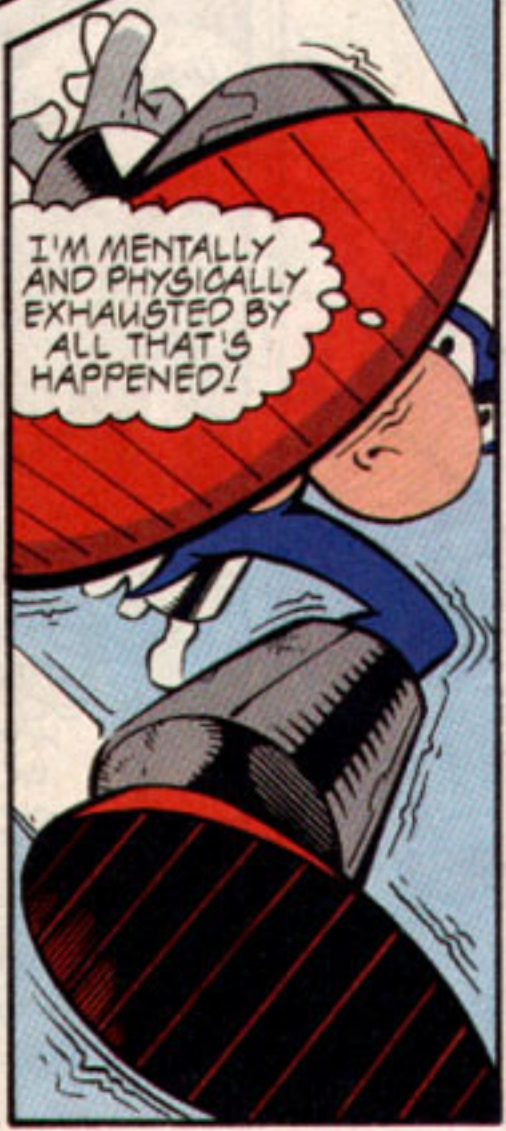
THERE'S NO WAY
I'LL SURVIVE THIS FALL
UNLESS I START HOVERING...
GOTTA TRY MY PATENTED
FIGURE EIGHT!



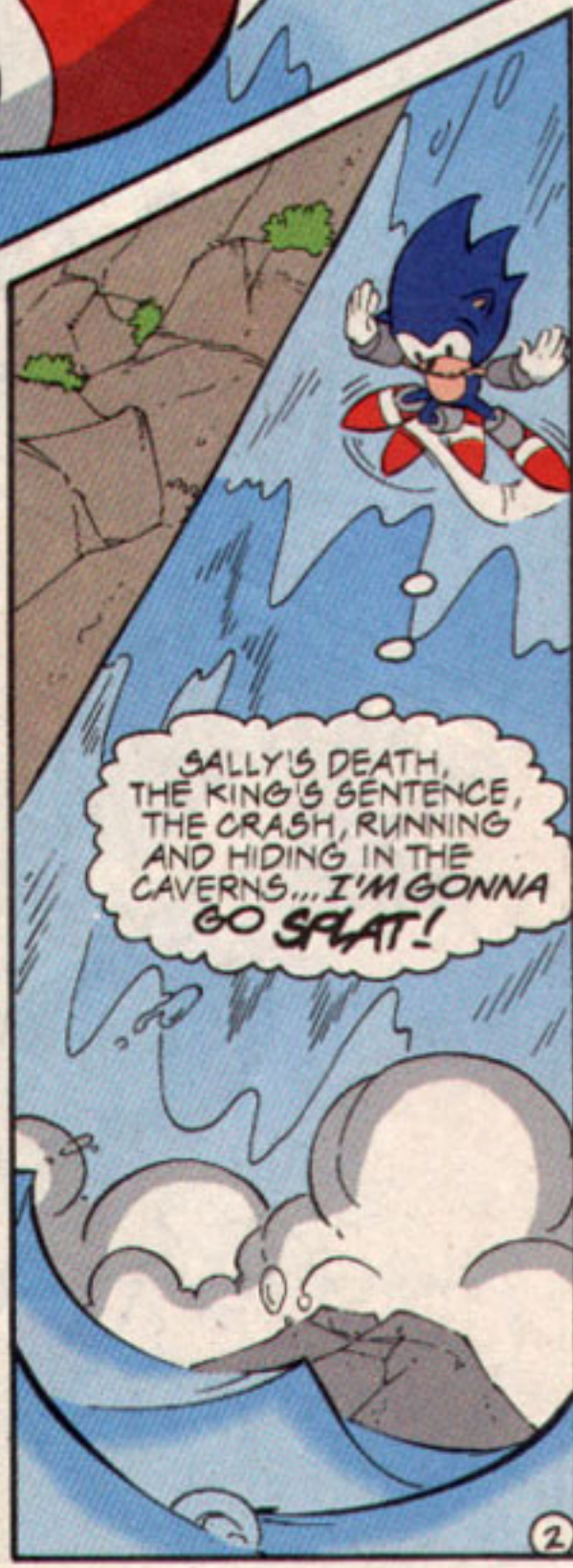
*FIRST SEEN IN THE
CLASSIC 5TH #25.
-- Classy Freddy



OUCH!
MY LEGS ARE
CRAMPING
UP!



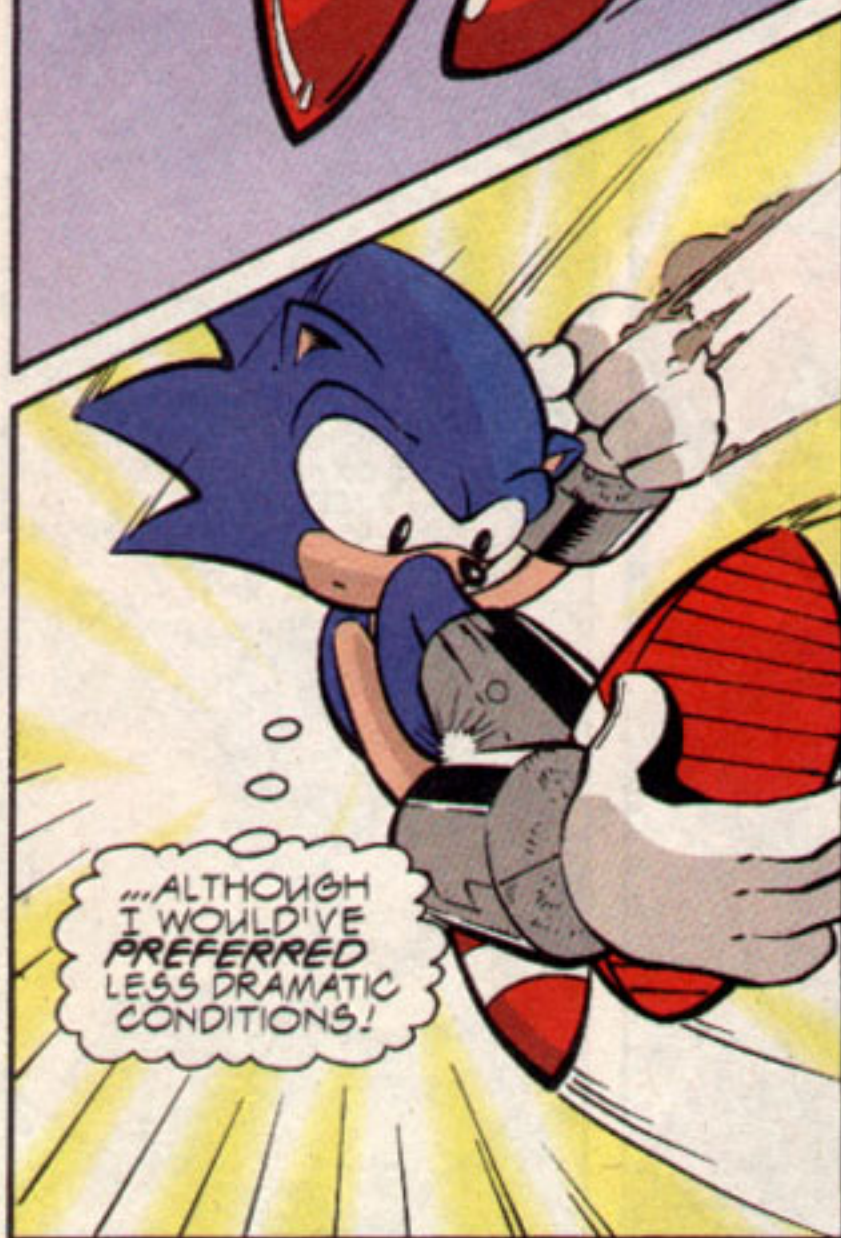
I'M MENTALLY
AND PHYSICALLY
EXHAUSTED BY
ALL THAT'S
HAPPENED!



SALLY'S DEATH,
THE KING'S SENTENCE,
THE CRASH, RUNNING
AND HIDING IN THE
CAVERNS... I'M GONNA
GO SPLAT!



I'VE BEEN
MEANING TO
**TRY THIS
TRICK** FOR
A WHILE
NOW!!!



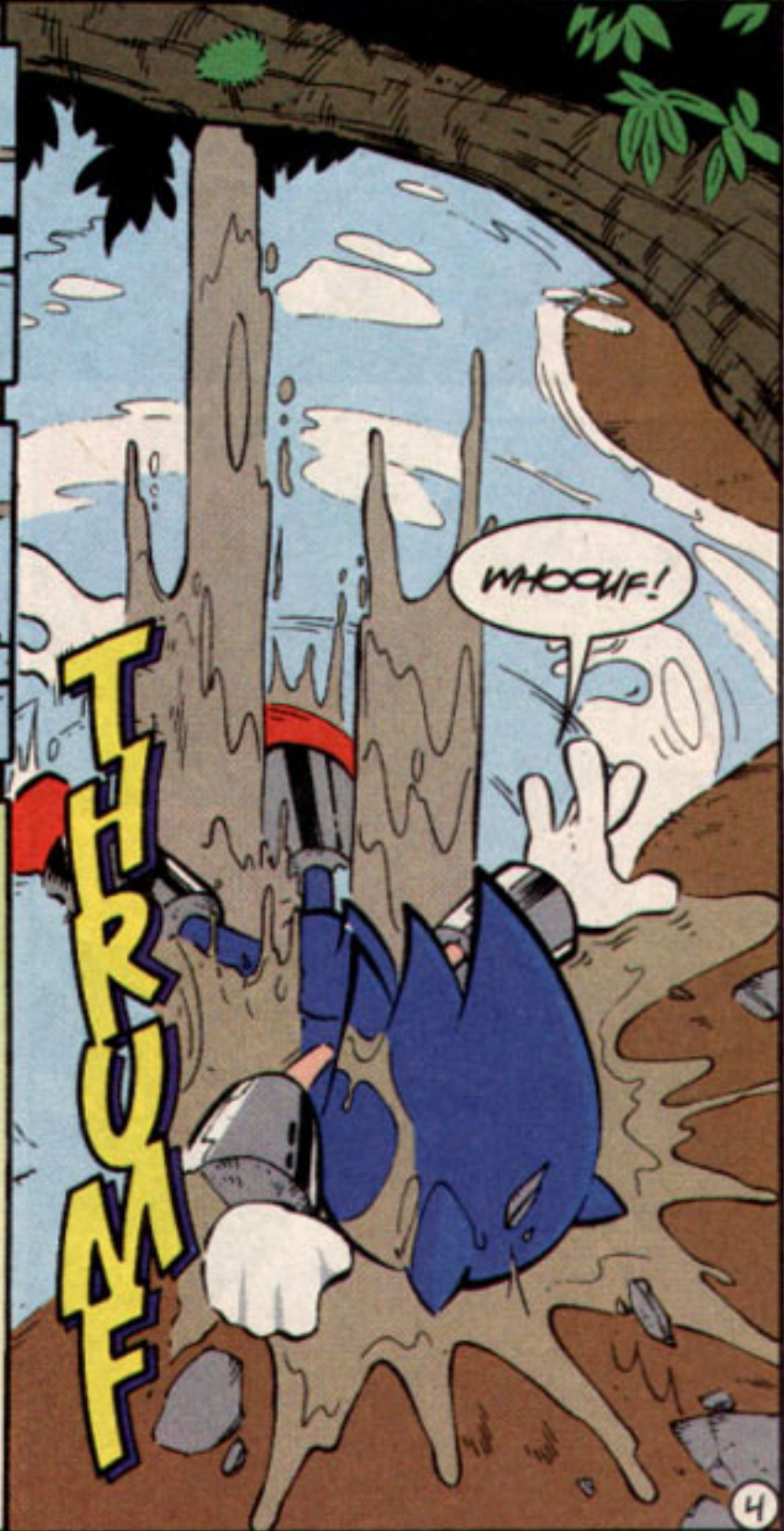
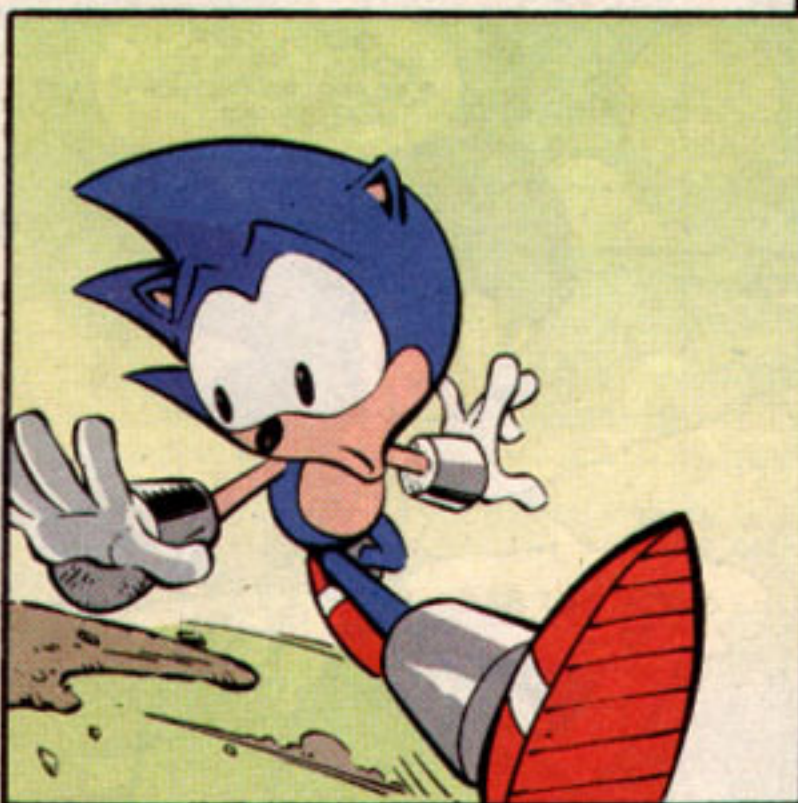
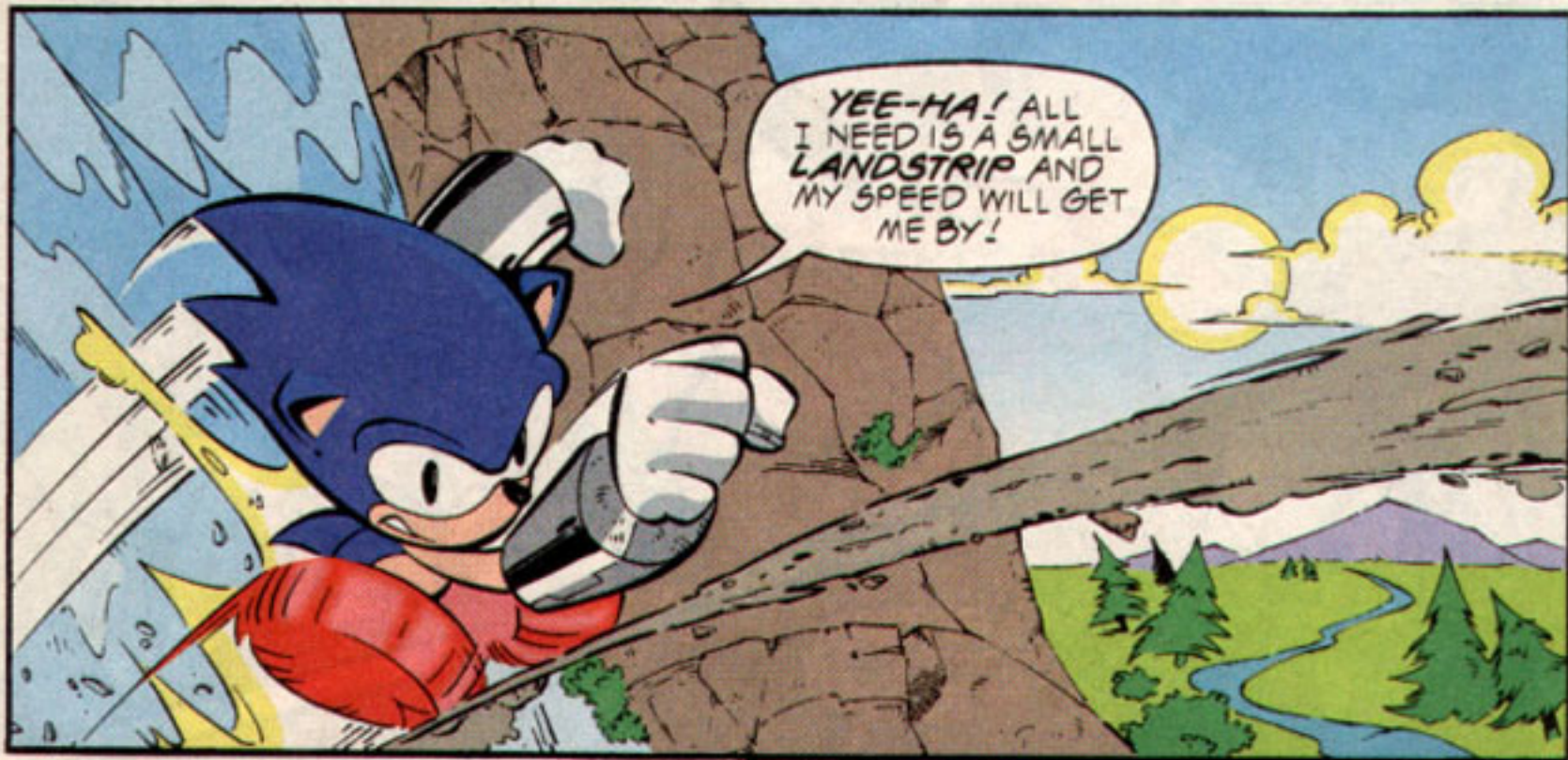
...ALTHOUGH
I WOULD'VE
PREFERRED
LESS DRAMATIC
CONDITIONS!

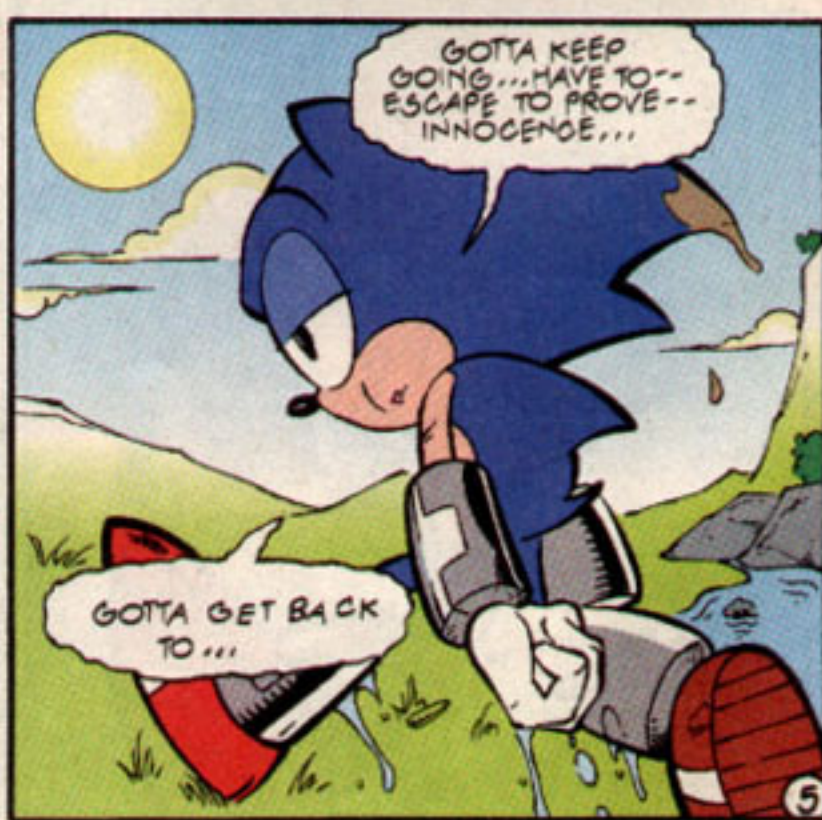


UNNGH!



HERE WE
GO--I SURE
HOPE THIS
WORKS!





--KNOTHOLE!--

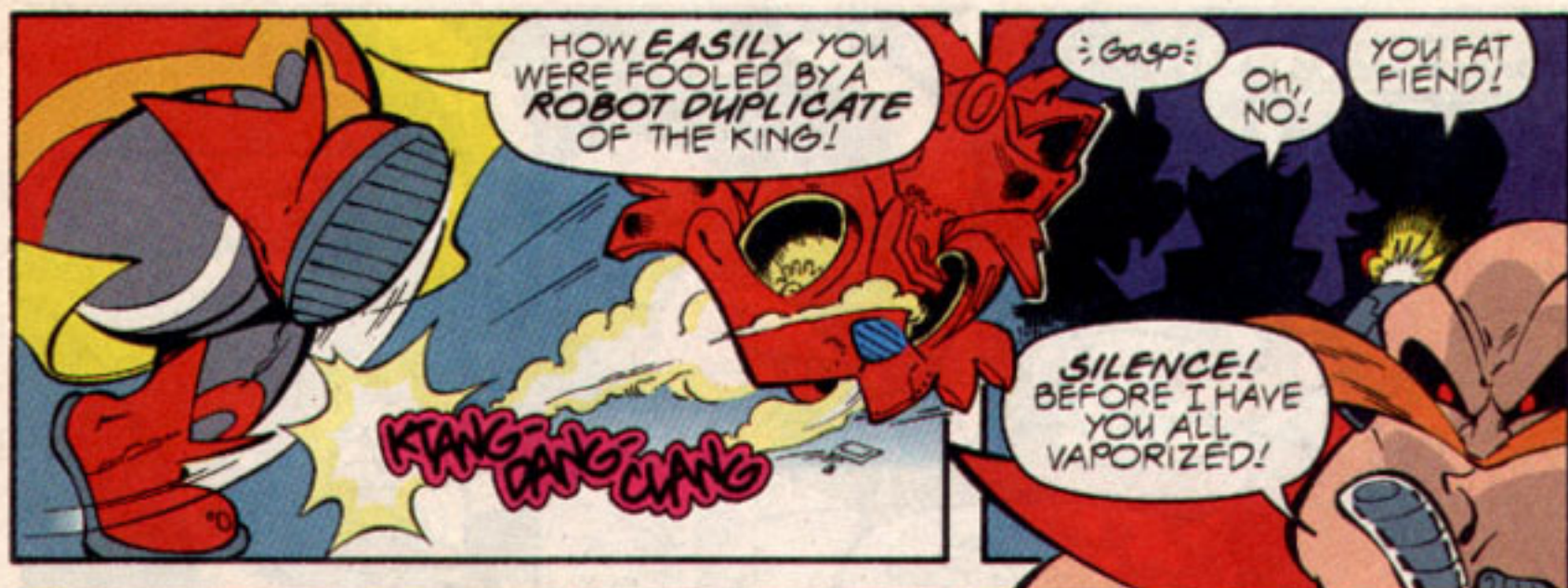
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

HAS INDEED BETRAYED
YOU!

BUT DESPITE
WHAT YOU'RE ALL
THINKING, KING
ACORN *HAS*
NOT!

FOR *THIS* IS
ANYTHING *BUT*
YOUR BELOVED
SOVEREIGN...

BEEP!
WHARDOOM



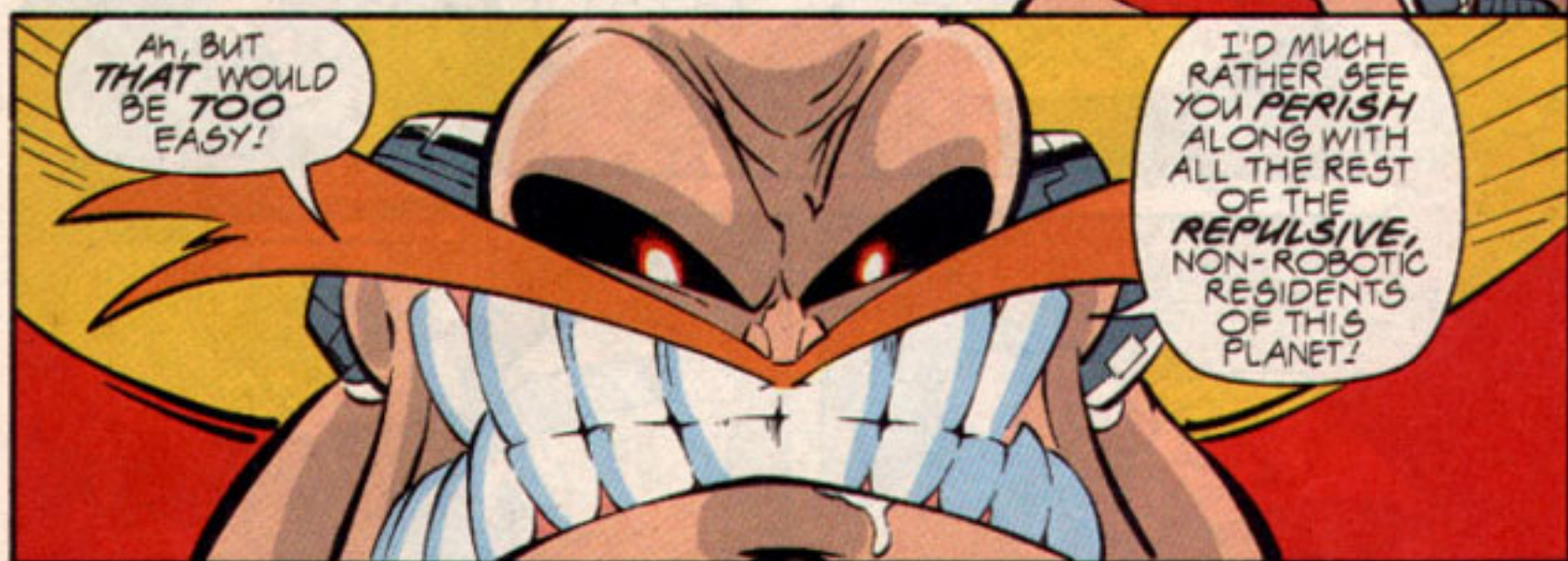
HOW *EASILY* YOU WERE FOOLED BY A **ROBOT DUPLICATE** OF THE KING!

≡ Gasp ≡

OH, NO!

YOU FAT FIEND!

SILENCE! BEFORE I HAVE YOU ALL VAPORIZED!



Ah, BUT *THAT* WOULD BE TOO EASY!

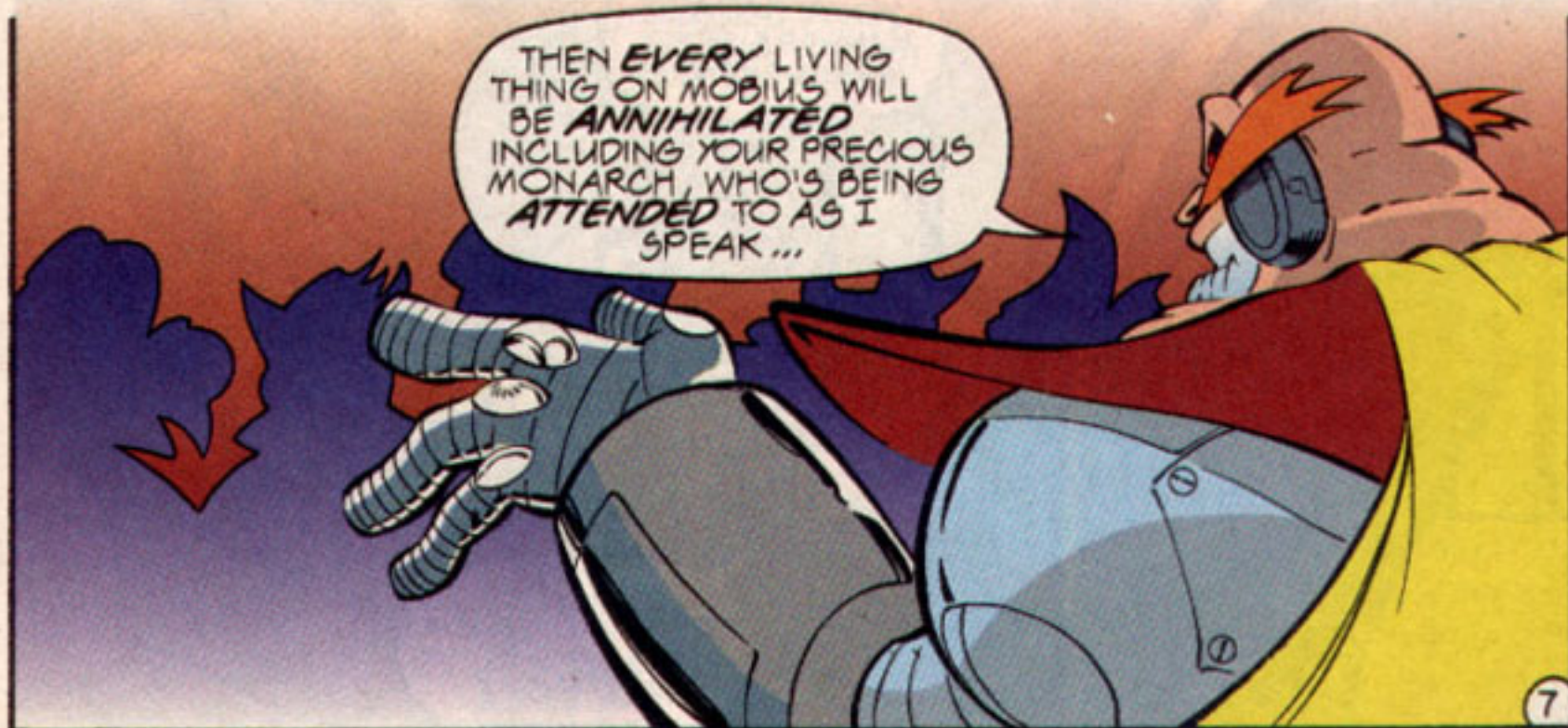
I'D MUCH RATHER SEE YOU *PERISH* ALONG WITH ALL THE REST OF THE **REPULSIVE, NON-ROBOTIC** RESIDENTS OF THIS PLANET!



AND SO, I'LL ALLOW YOU MISCREANTS TO LIVE -- FOR A SHORT WHILE...

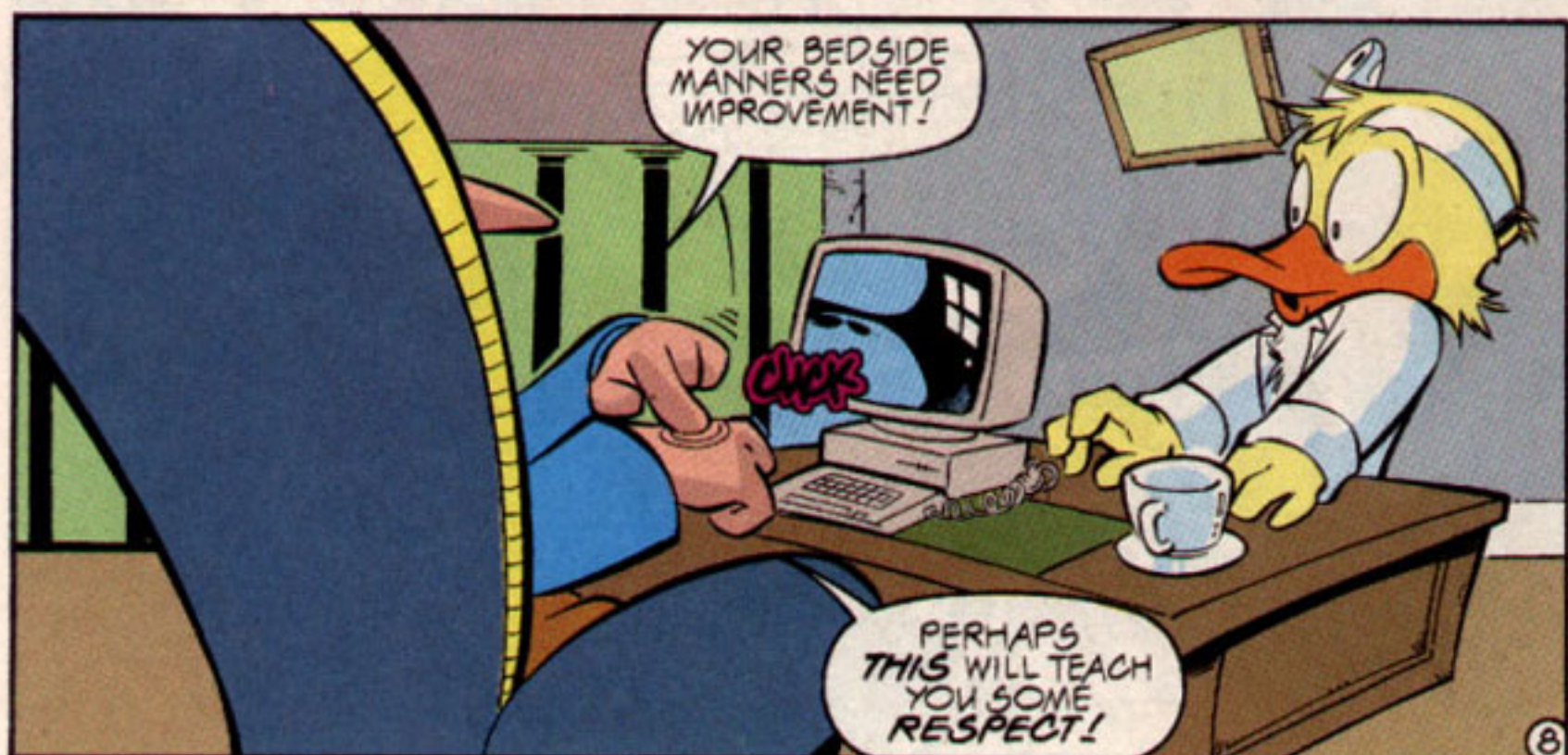
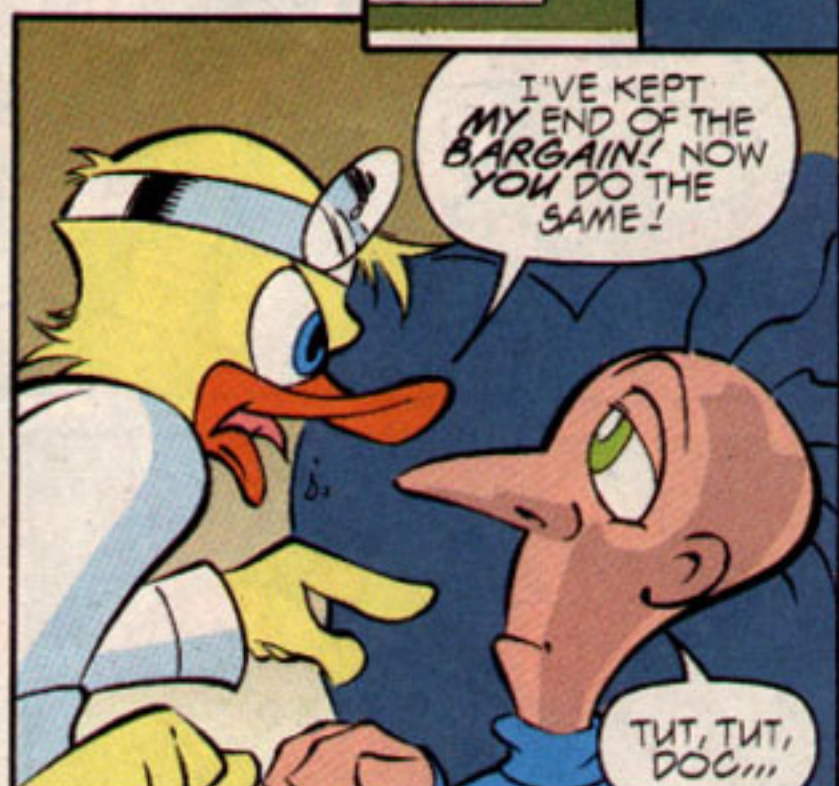
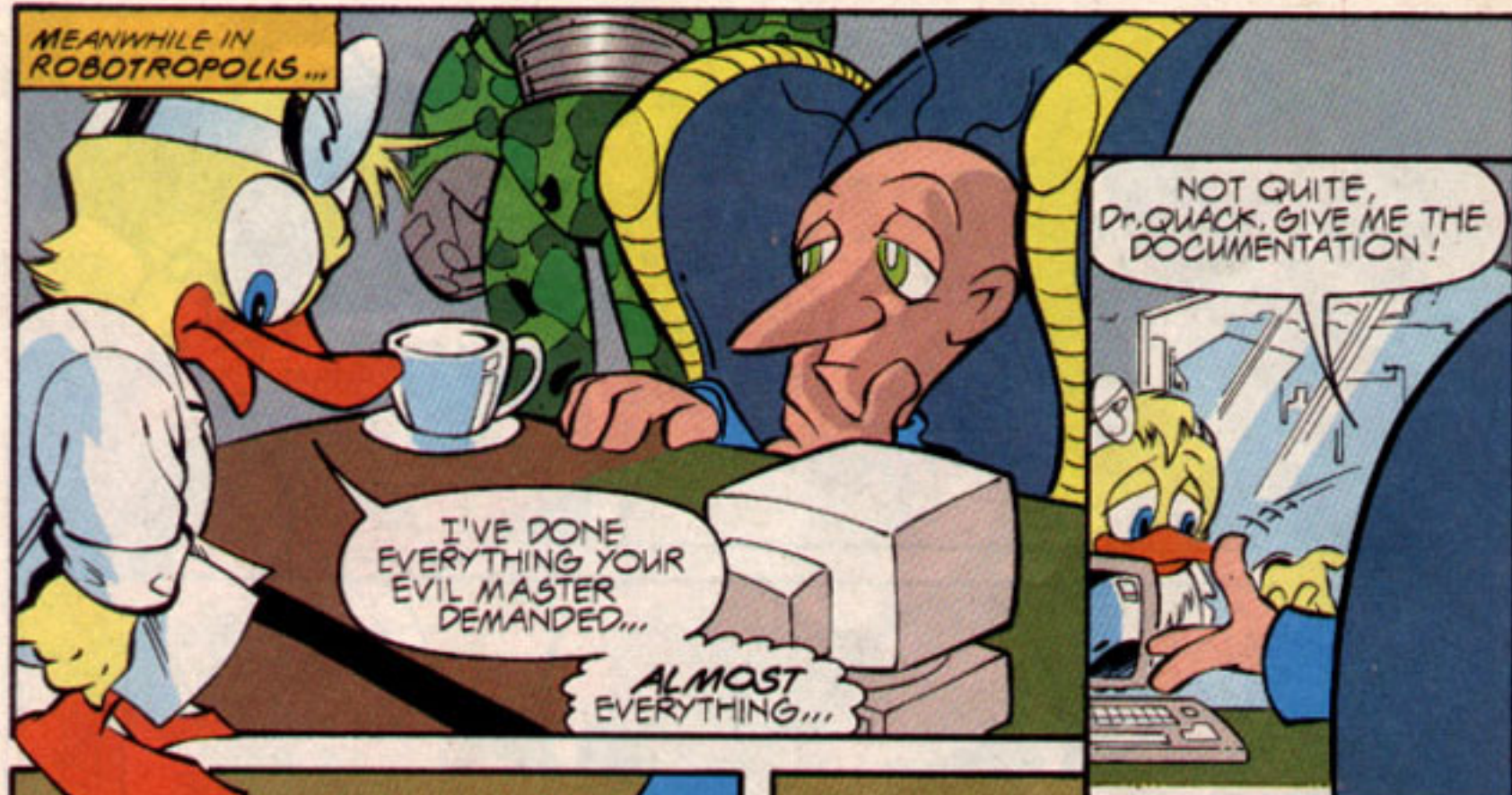


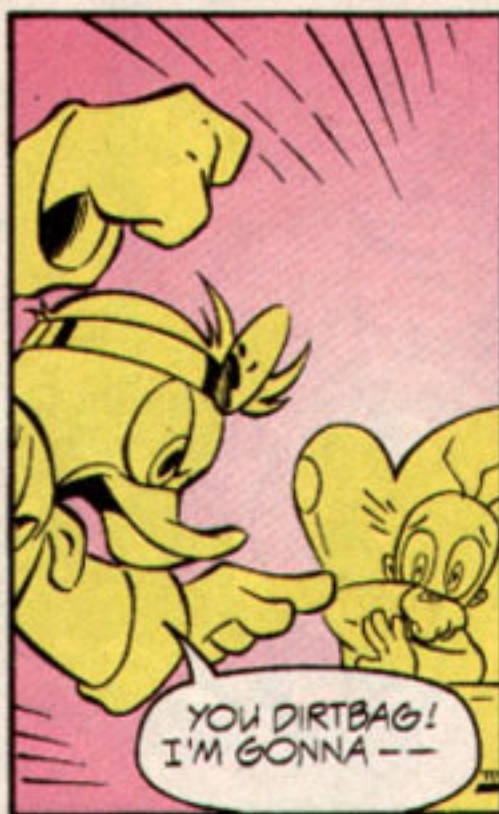
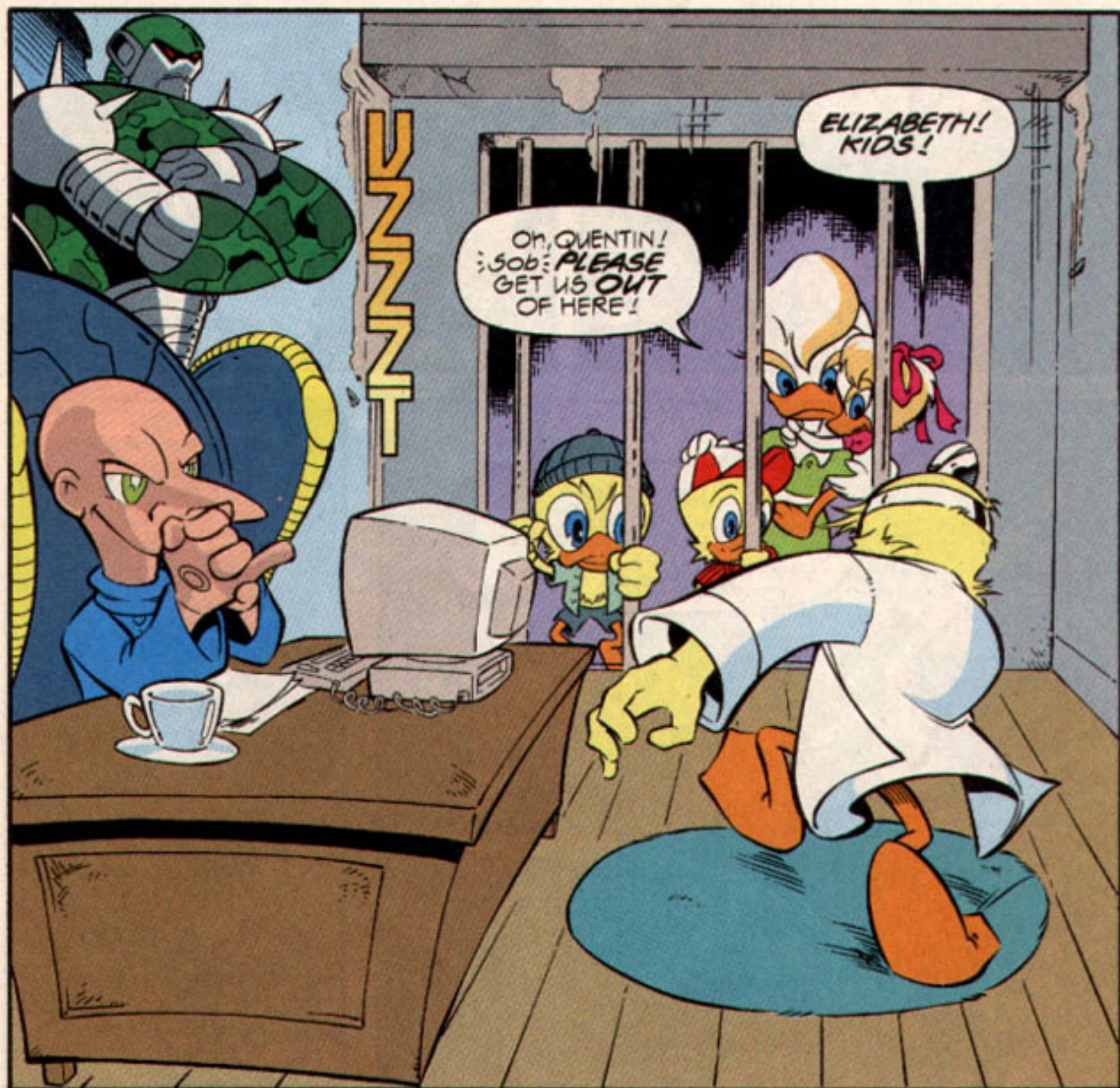
...UNTIL MY LATEST AND MOST **POWERFUL** WEAPON OF DESTRUCTION IS **FULLY FUNCTIONAL!**

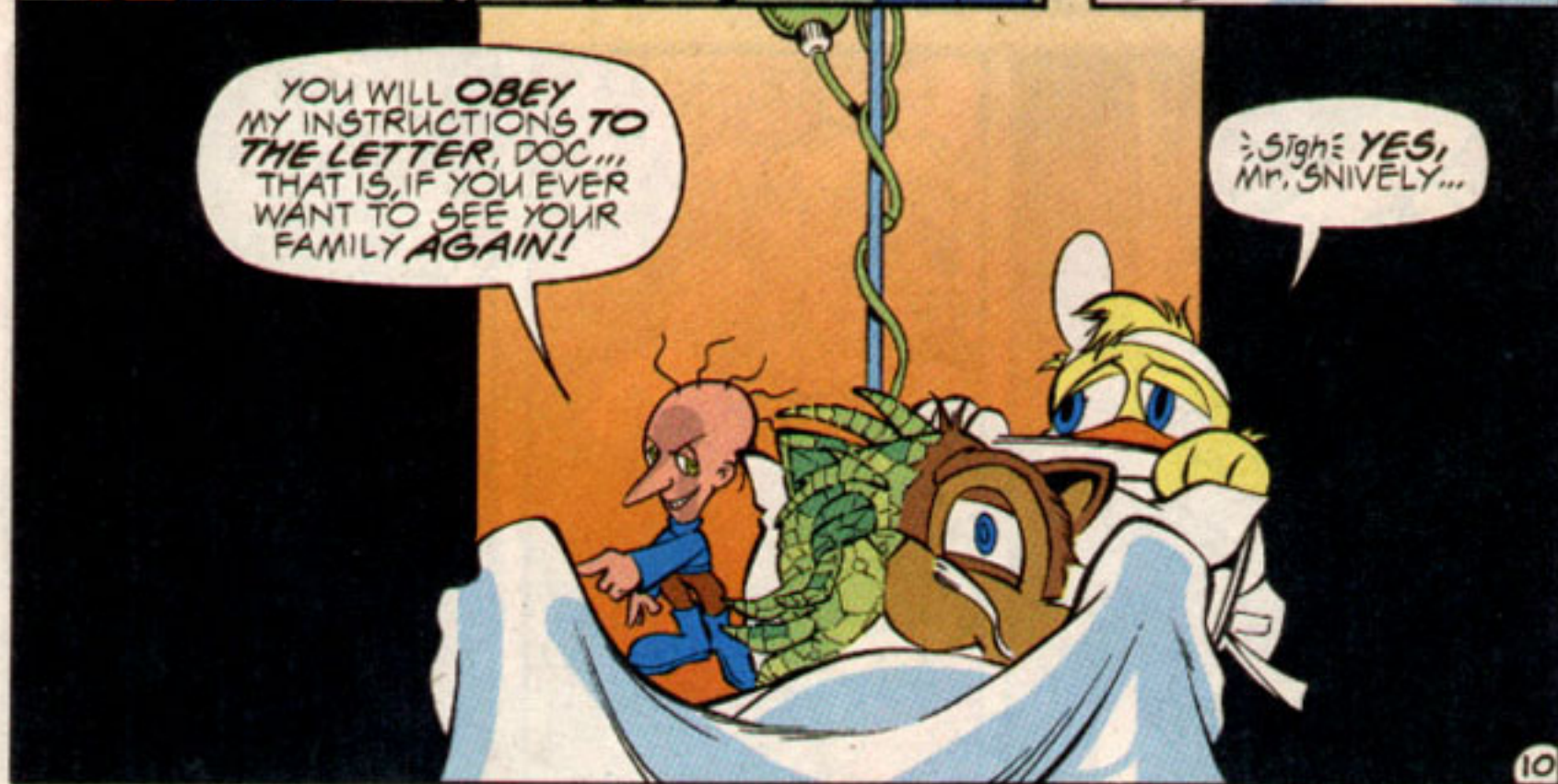
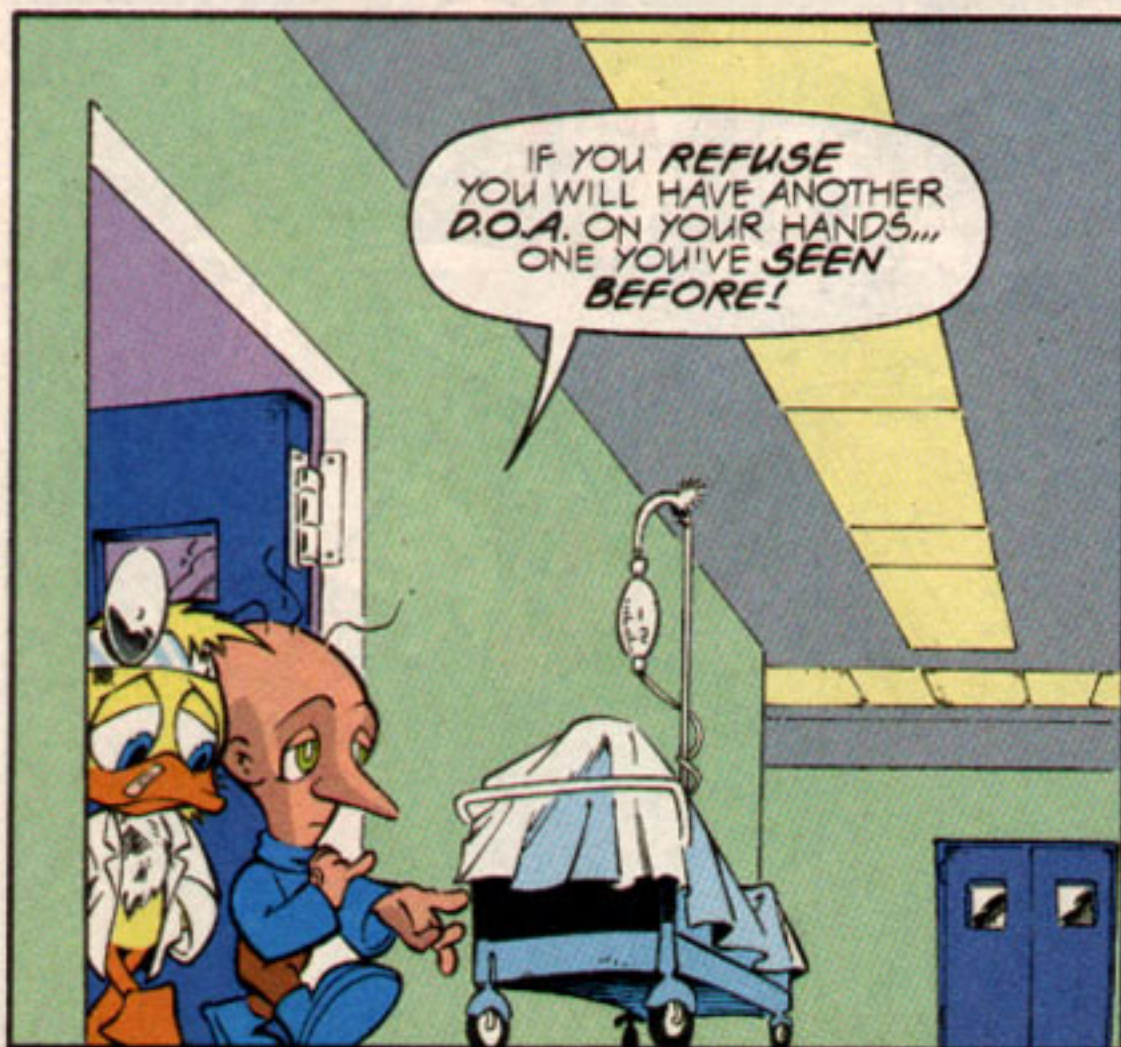


THEN *EVERY* LIVING THING ON MOBIUS WILL BE **ANNIHILATED** INCLUDING YOUR PRECIOUS MONARCH, WHO'S BEING **ATTENDED TO** AS I SPEAK ...

MEANWHILE IN
ROBOTROPOLIS ...



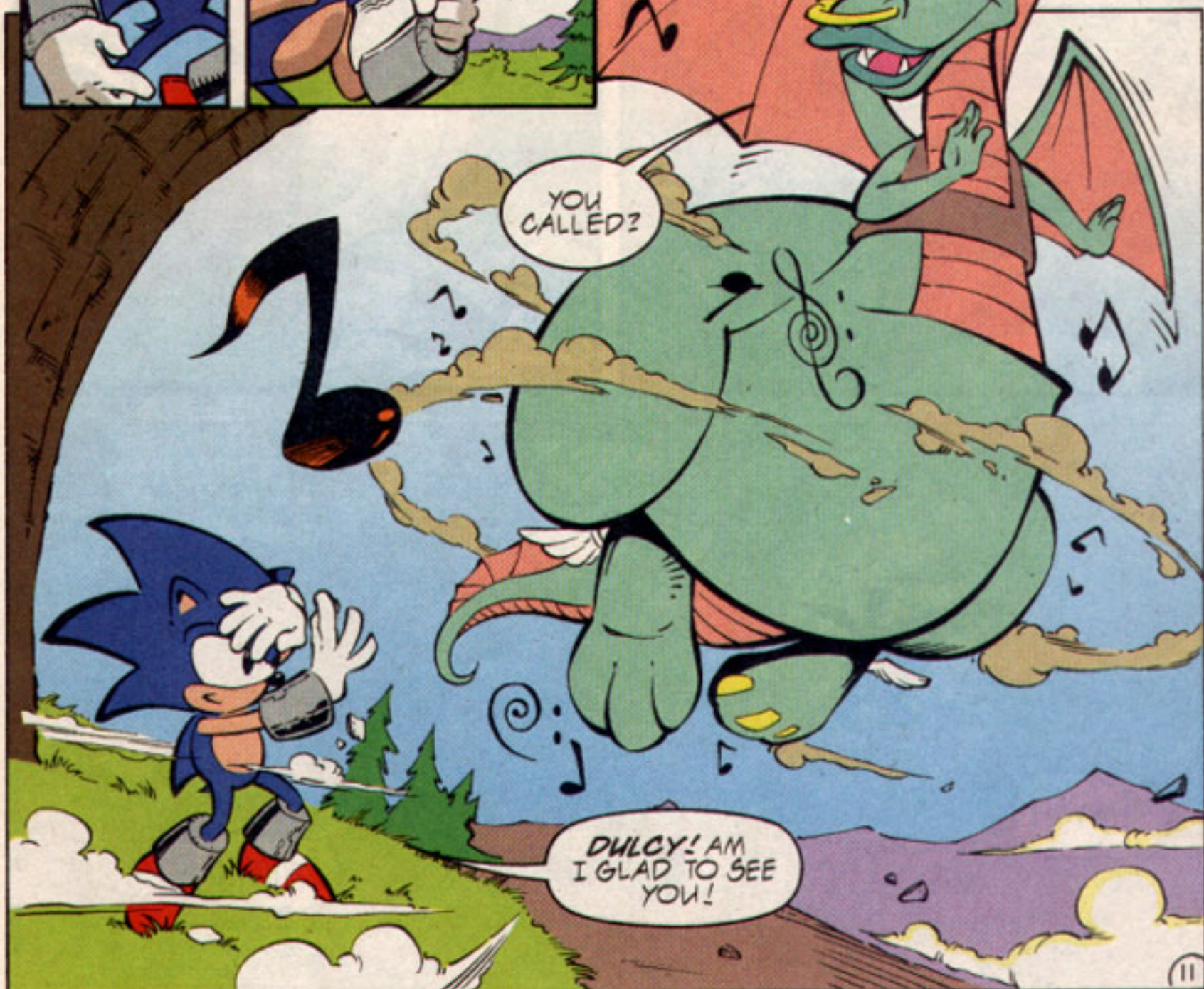


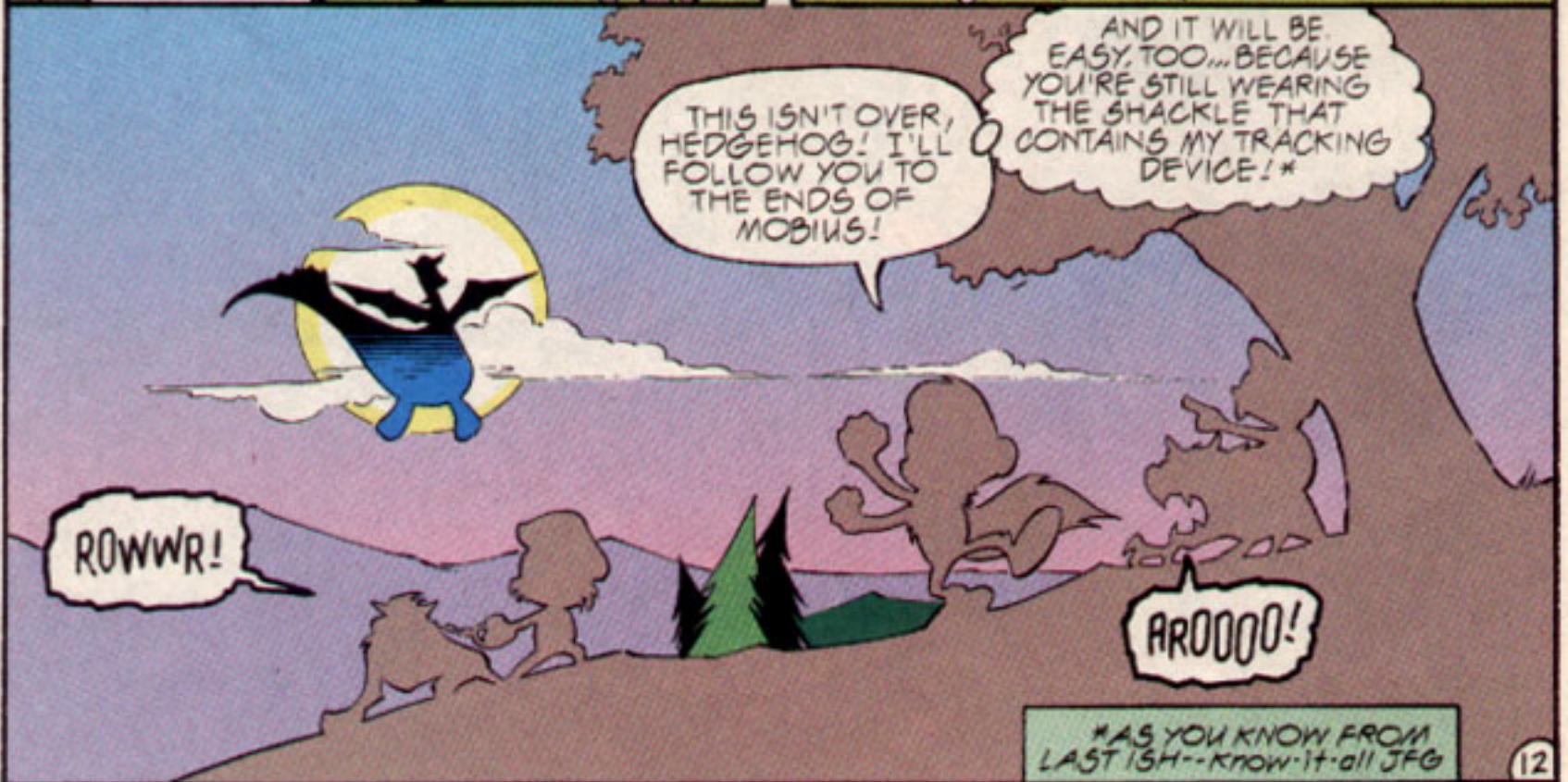
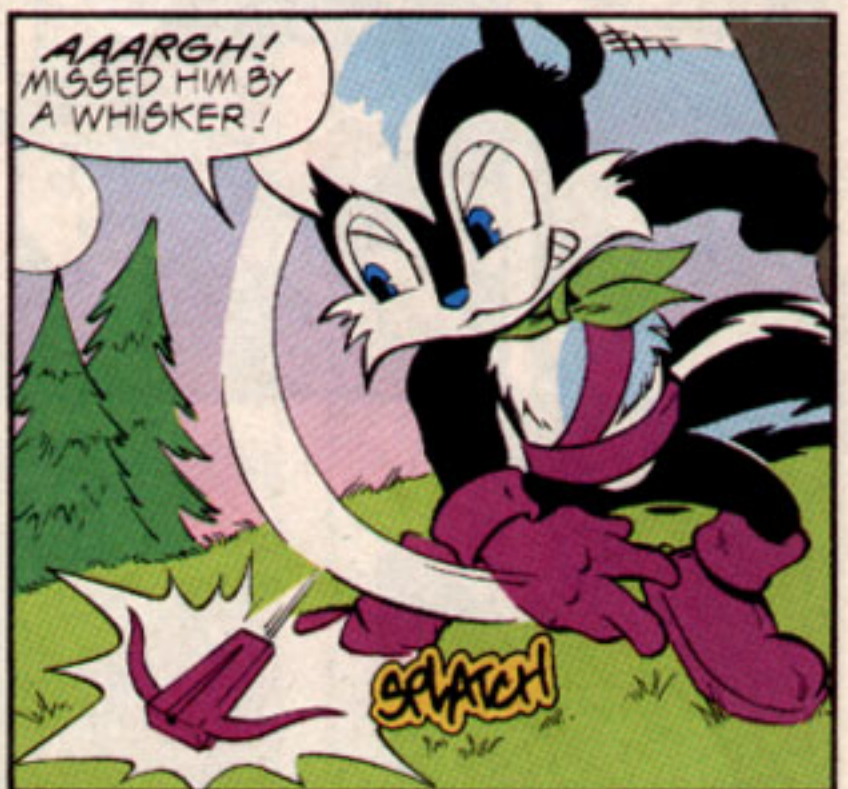
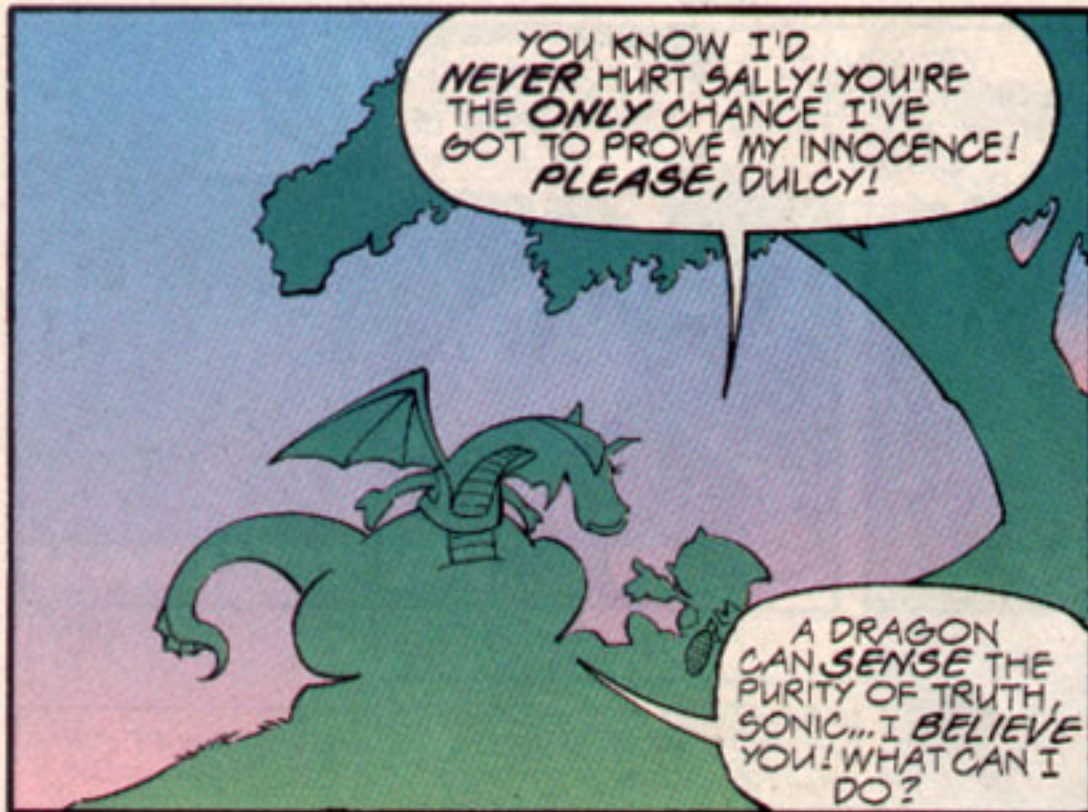


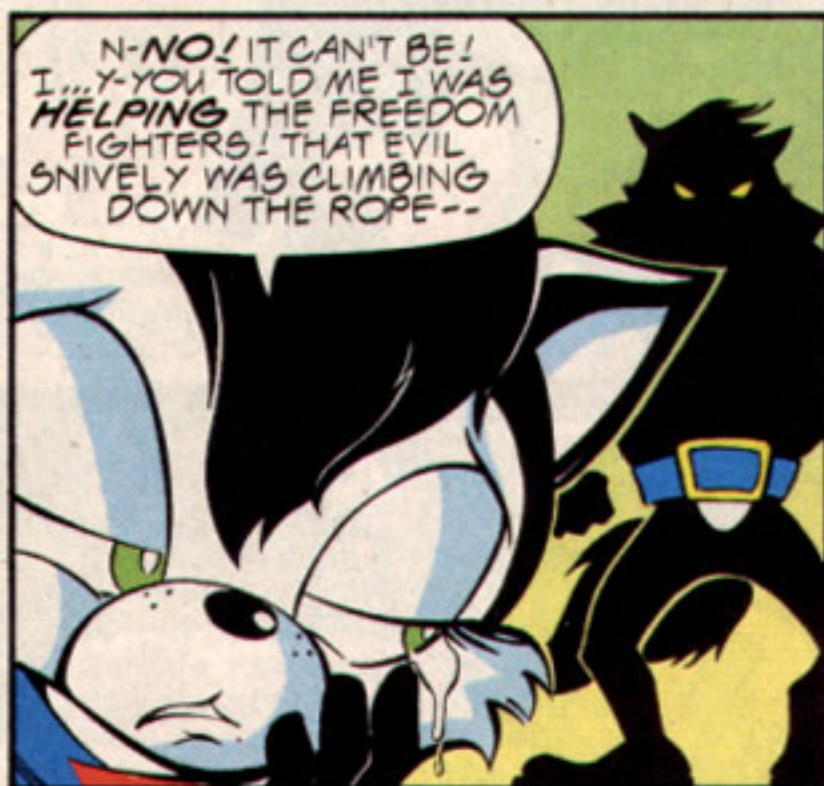


VIBRATING HIS VOCAL CHORDS AT A SPEED UNATTAINABLE BY ANY OTHER LIVING CREATURE, SONIC EMITS A HIGH-PITCHED WHISTLE--

ONE THAT CAN ONLY BE HEARD BY...



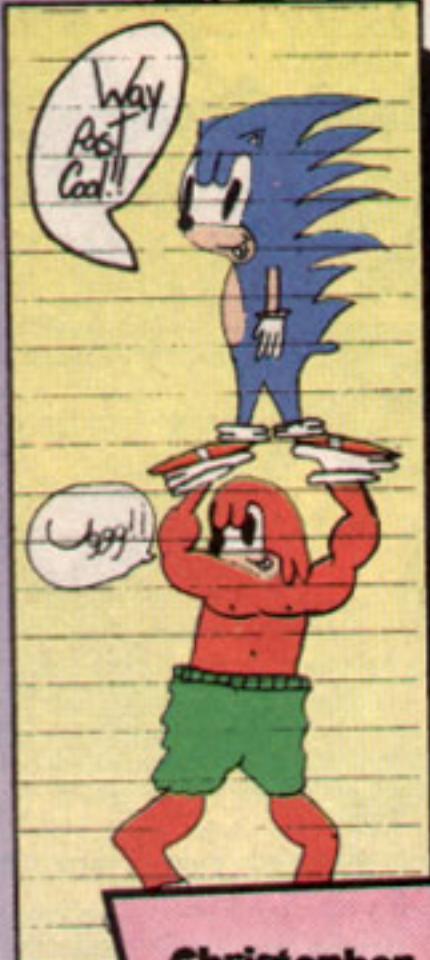






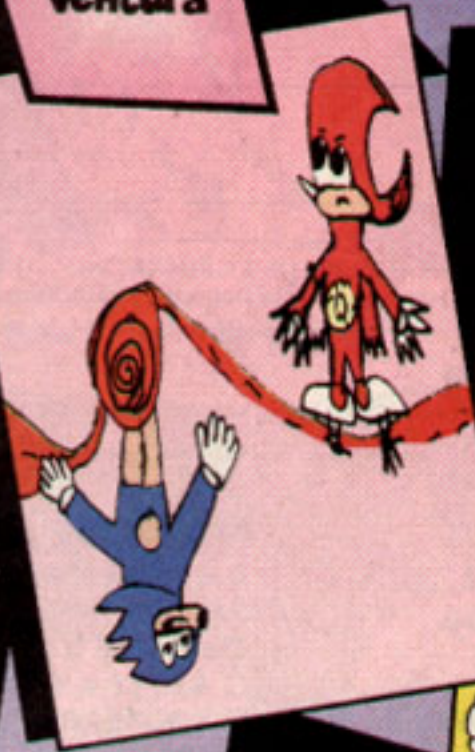
FAN ART

SONIC



Michael Ventura

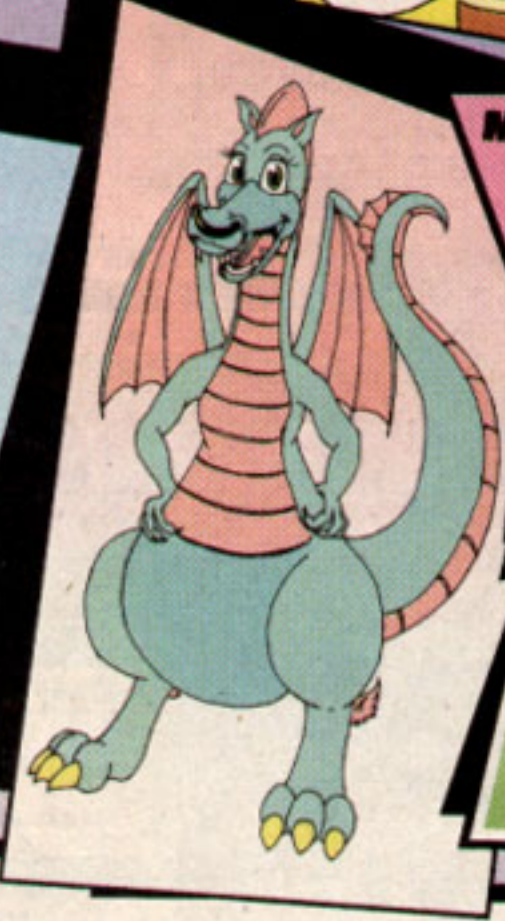
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Age 11**



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Niese
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Age 15**

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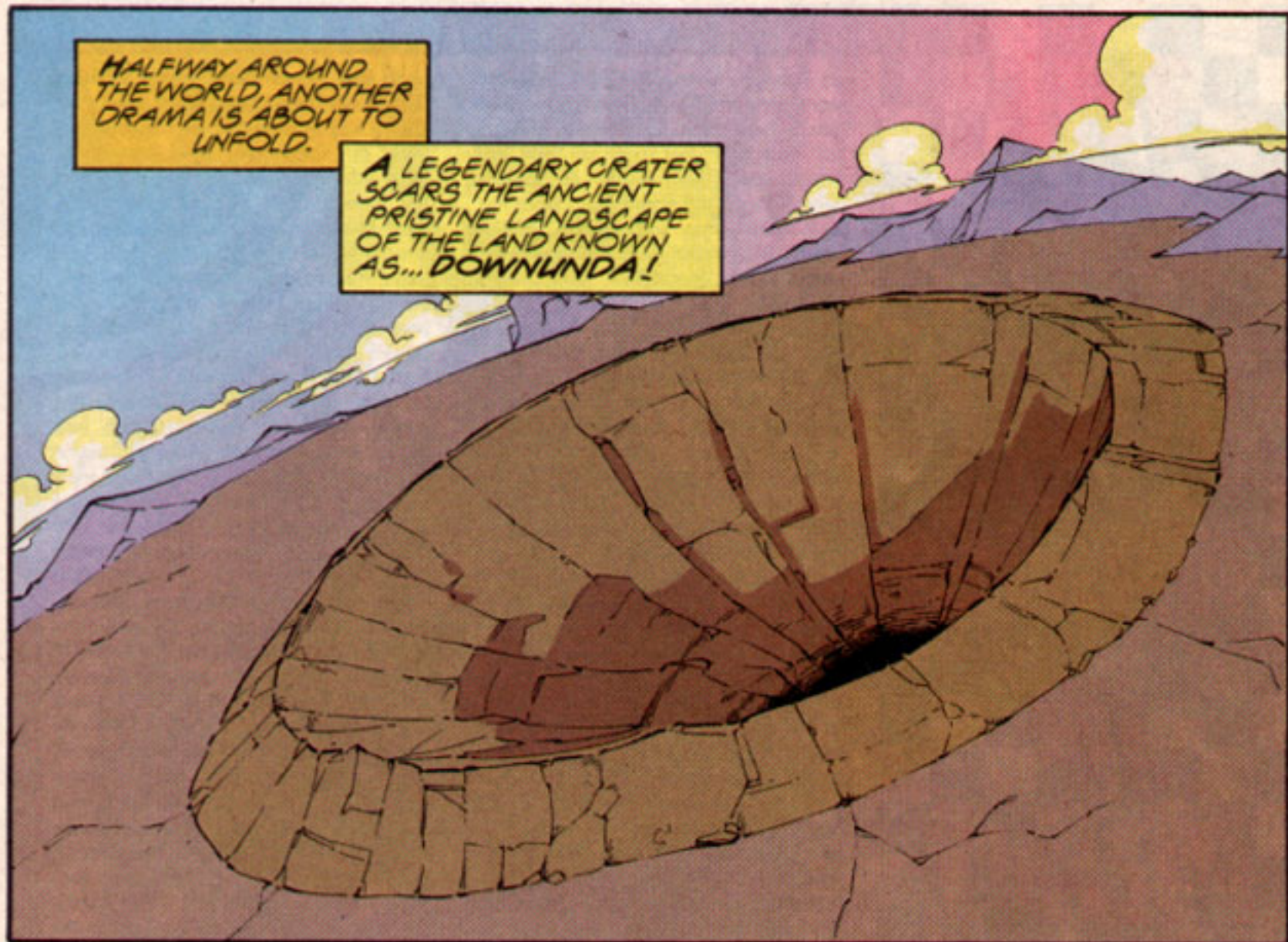
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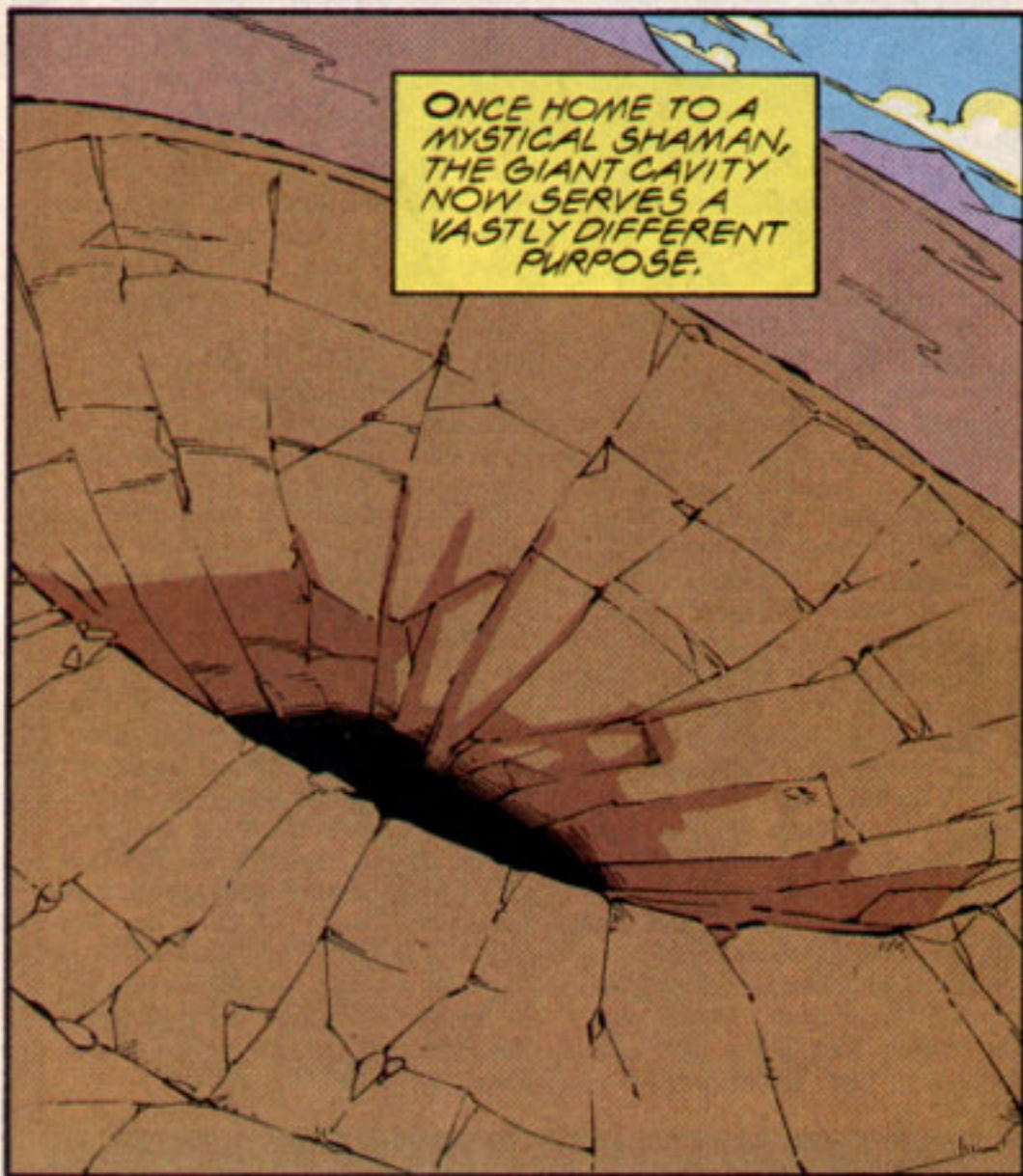
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HALFWAY AROUND
THE WORLD, ANOTHER
DRAMA IS ABOUT TO
UNFOLD.

A LEGENDARY CRATER
SCARS THE ANCIENT
PRISTINE LANDSCAPE
OF THE LAND KNOWN
AS... DOWNLUNDA!



ONCE HOME TO A
MYSTICAL SHAMAN,
THE GIANT CAVITY
NOW SERVES A
VASTLY DIFFERENT
PURPOSE.



ONE THAT REEKS
OF SUFFERING,
DESPAIR AND
PALPABLE
MALEVOLENCE!

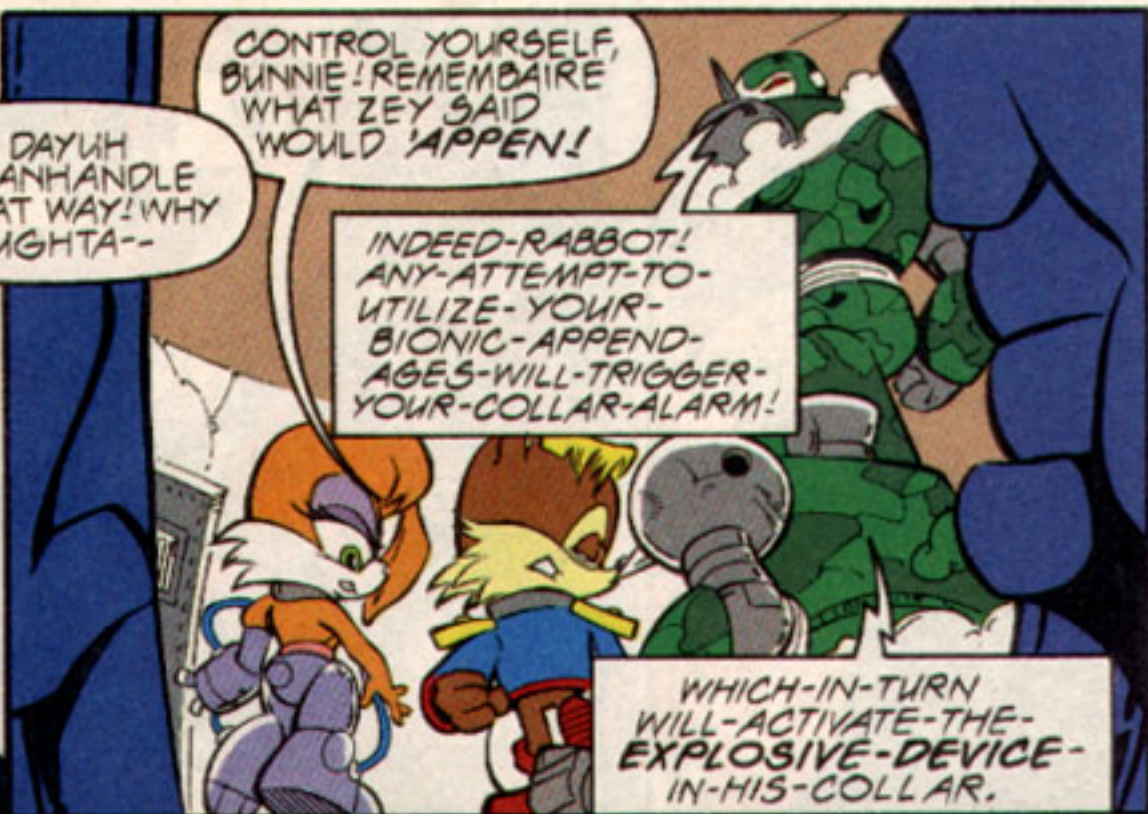
MOVE--
QUICKLY!





HURRY-IT-UP!

HOW DAYUH YOU MANHANDLE ME THAT WAY! WHY I OUGHTA--



CONTROL YOURSELF, BUNNIE! REMEMBAIRE WHAT ZEY SAID WOULD 'APPEN!

INDEED-RABBOT! ANY-ATTEMPT-TO-UTILIZE-YOUR-BIONIC-APPEND-AGES-WILL-TRIGGER-YOUR-COLLAR-ALARM!

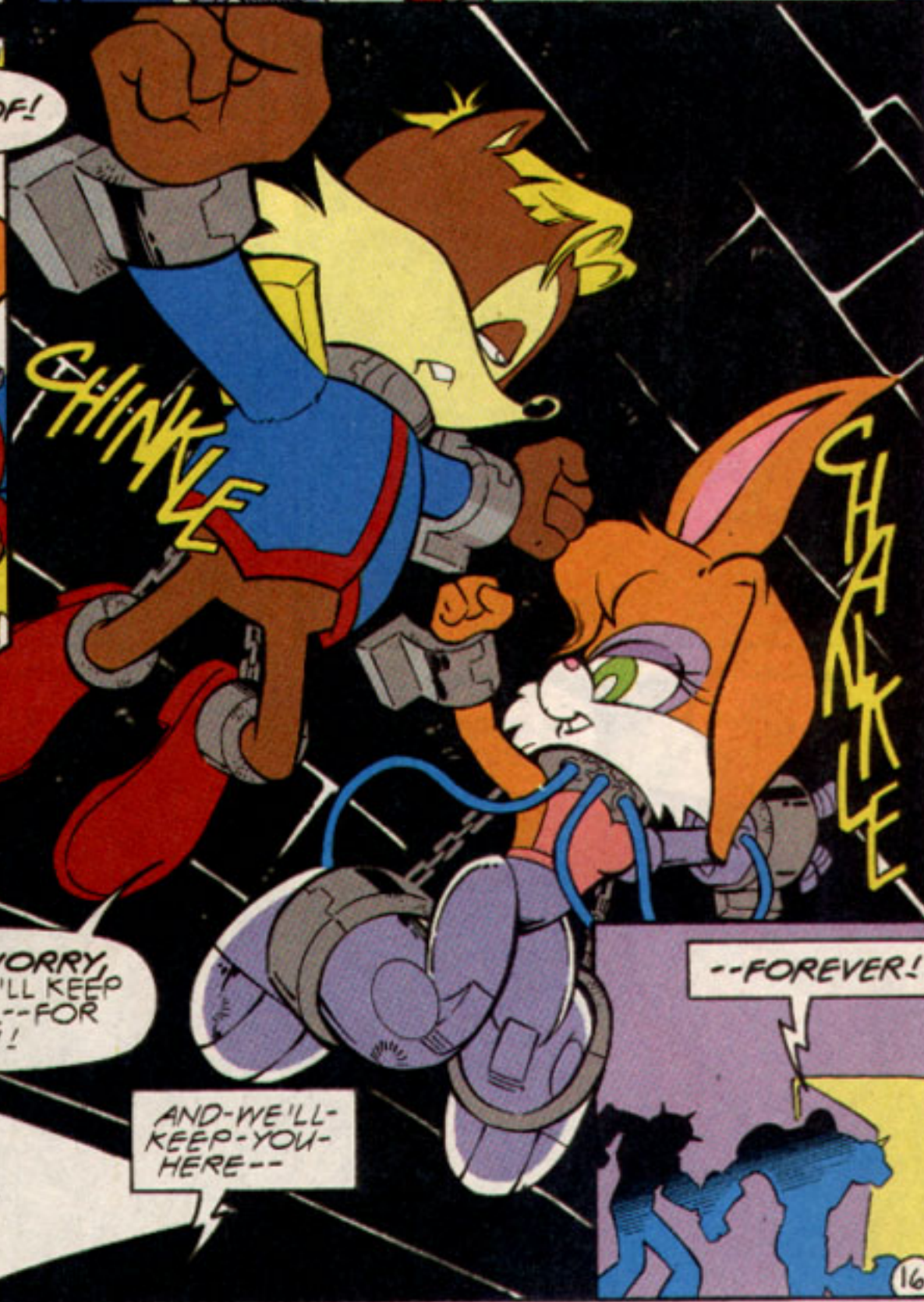
WHICH-IN-TURN WILL-ACTIVATE-THE-EXPLOSIVE-DEVICE-IN-HIS-COLLAR.



IN-YOU-GO!

OOOF!

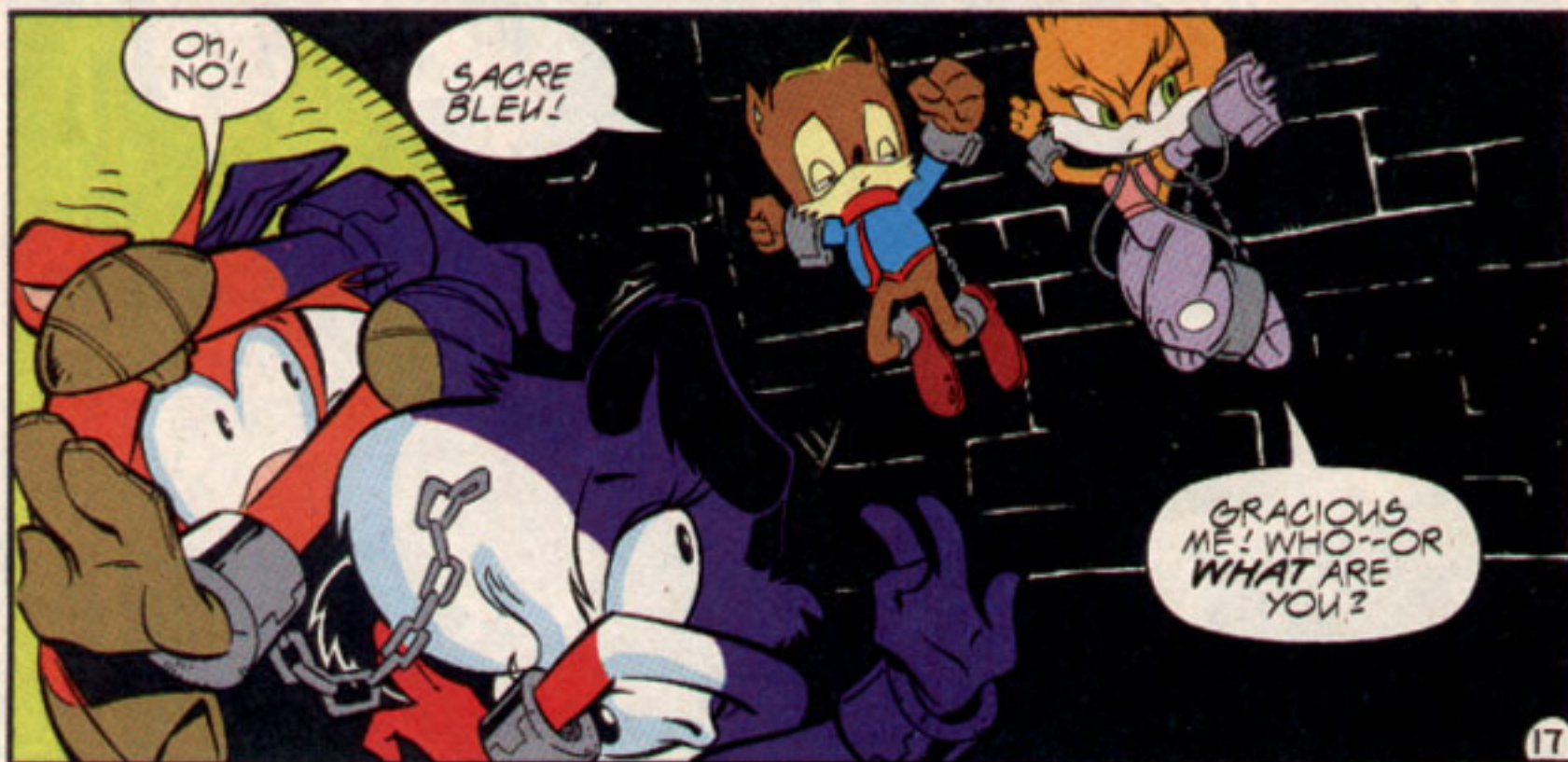
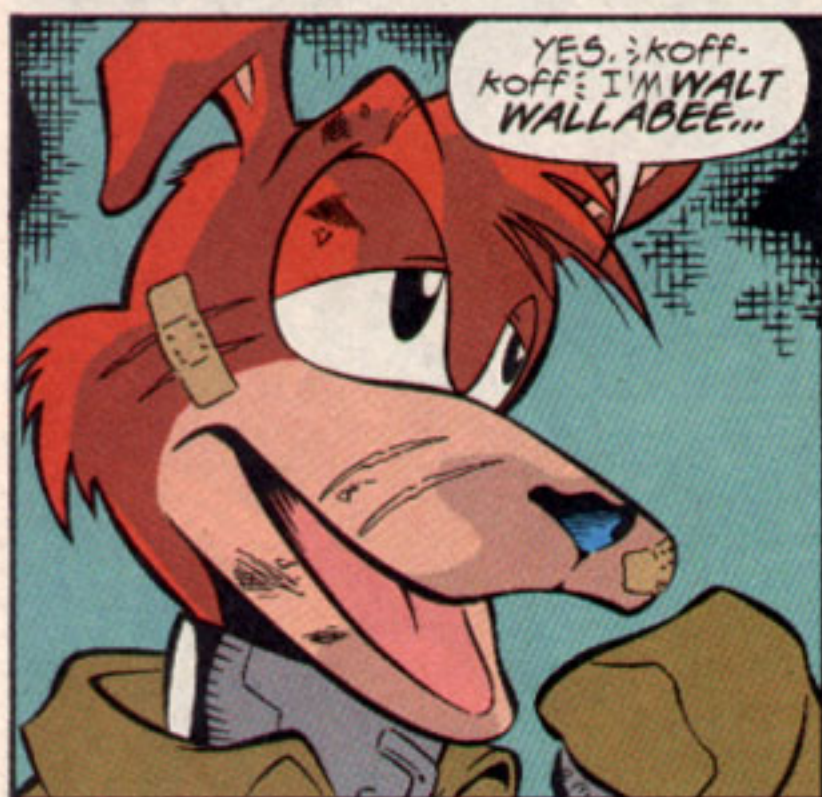
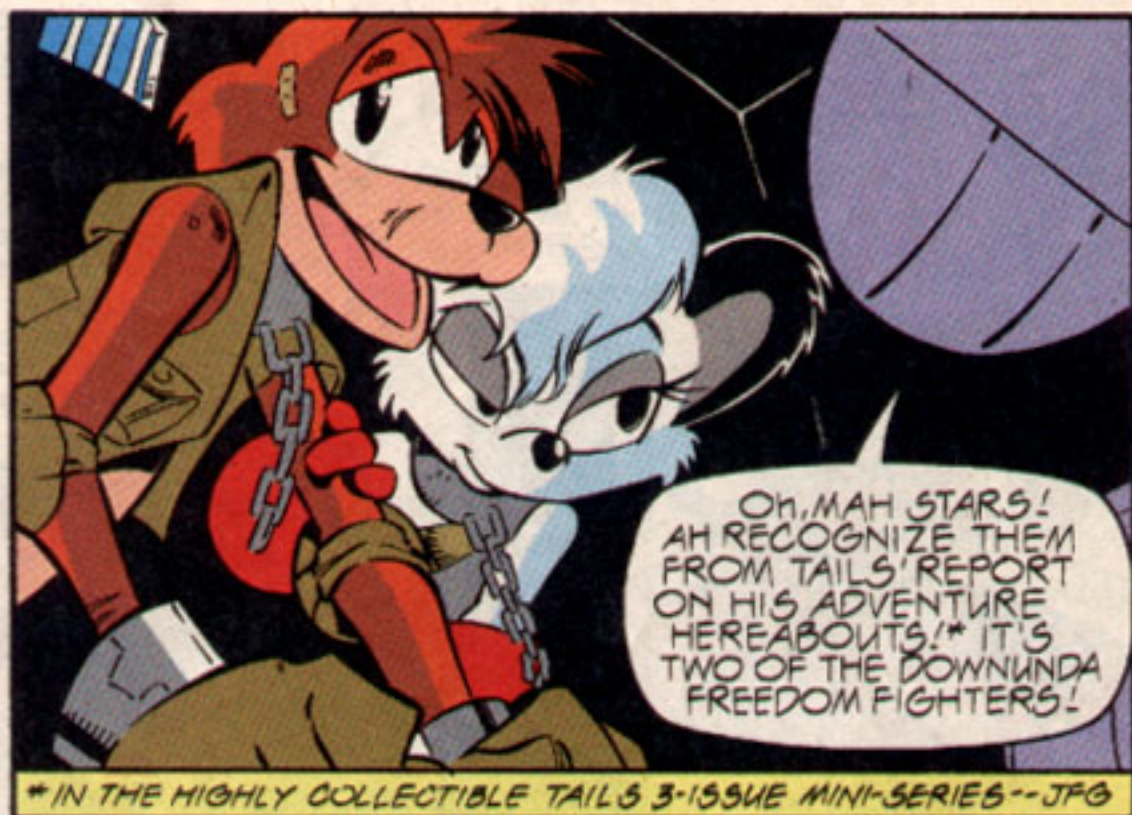
UNNGH!

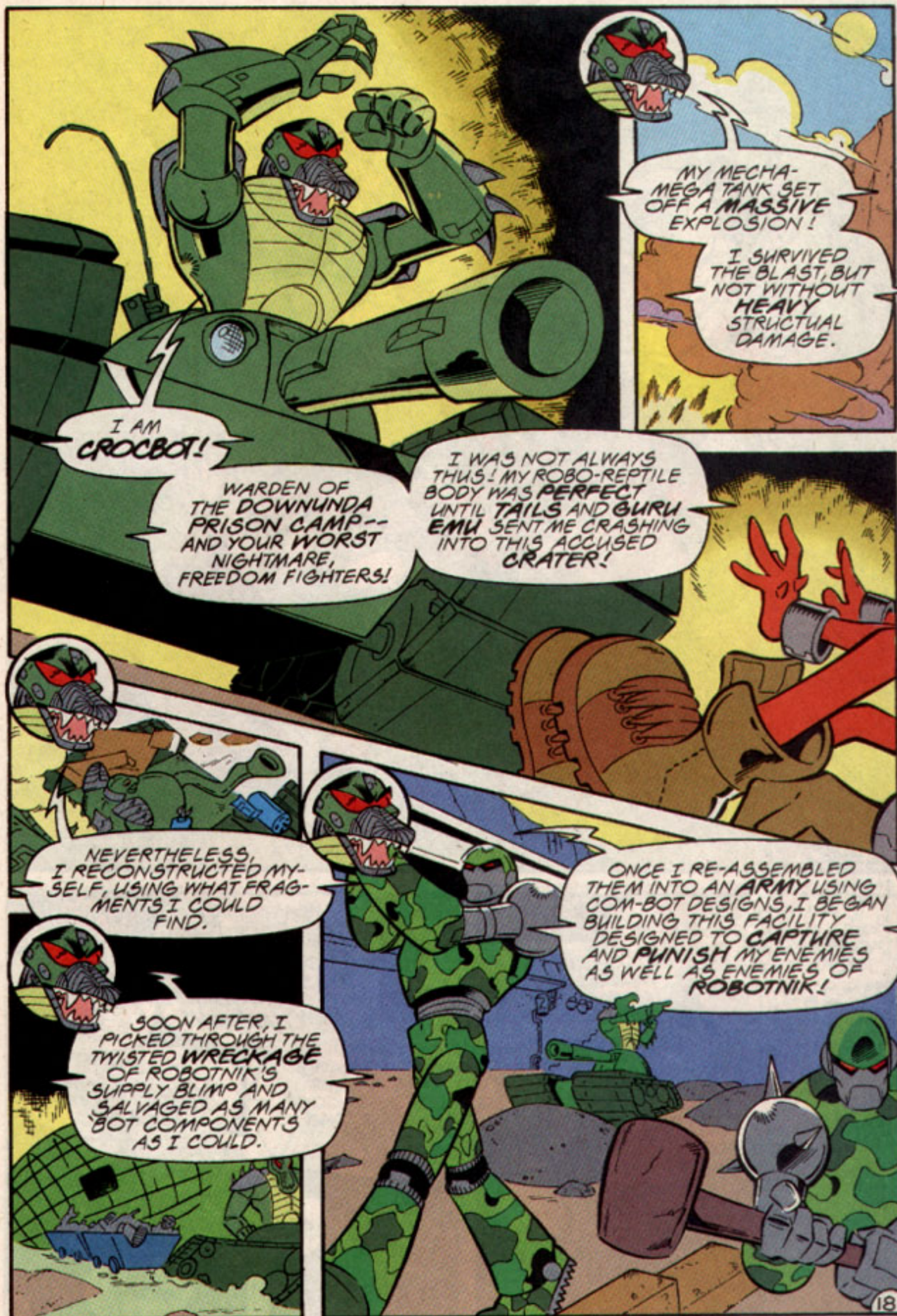


DON'T WORRY, SUGAH...AH'LL KEEP MAH COOL--FOR NOW!

AND-WE'LL-KEEP-YOU-HERE--

--FOREVER!





I AM
CROCBOT!

WARDEN OF
THE DOWNUNDA
PRISON CAMP--
AND YOUR WORST
NIGHTMARE,
FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

I WAS NOT ALWAYS
THUS! MY ROBO-REPTILE
BODY WAS **PERFECT**
UNTIL **TAILS** AND **GURU**
EMU SENT ME CRASHING
INTO THIS ACCUSED
CRATER!

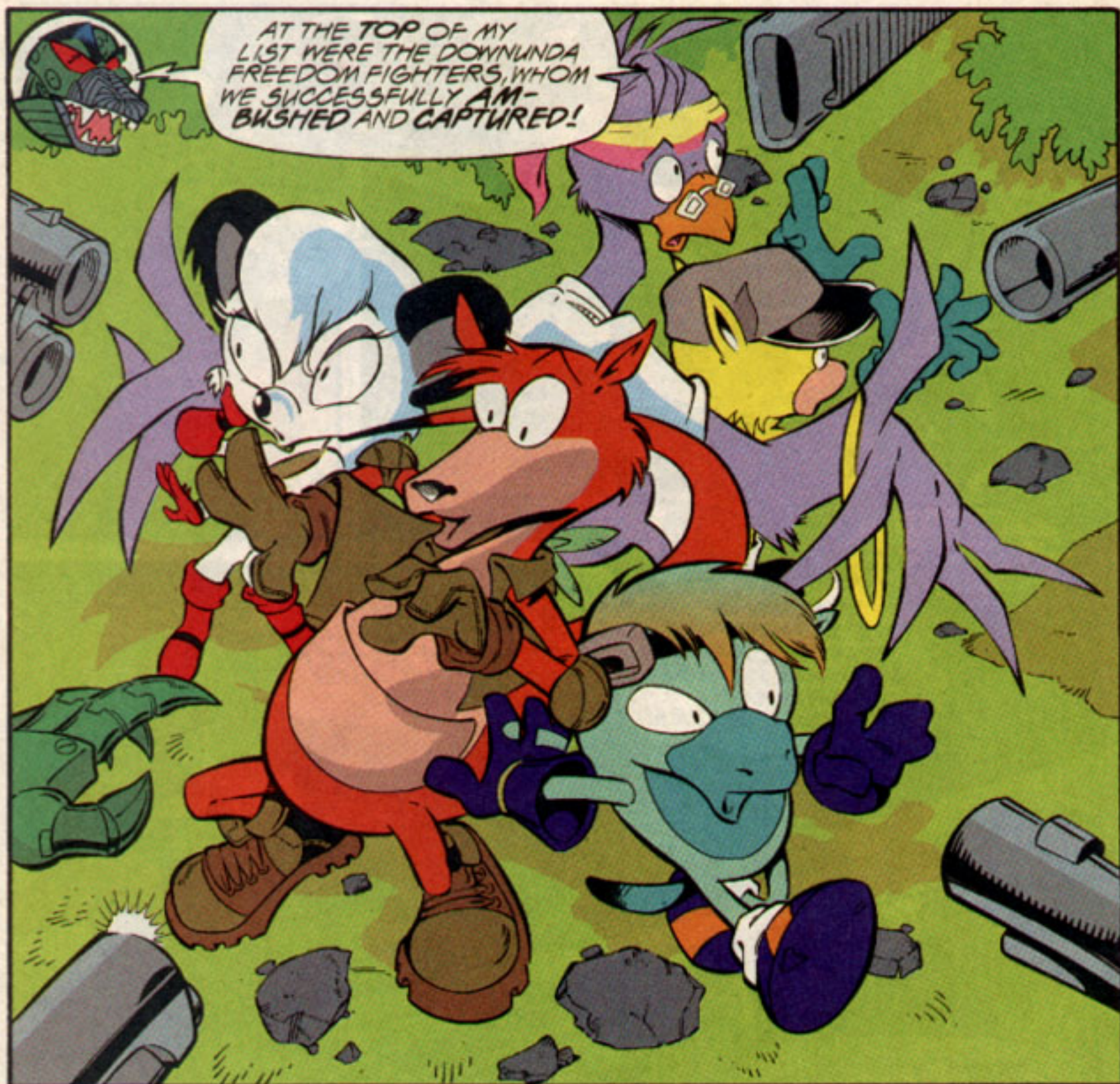
MY MECHA-
MEGA TANK SET
OFF A **MASSIVE**
EXPLOSION!

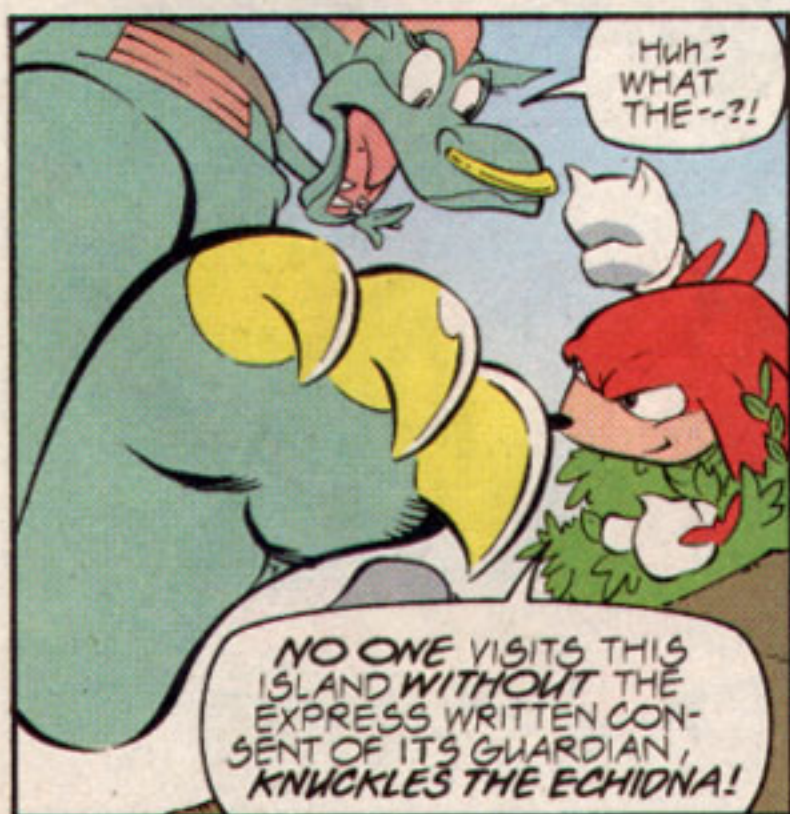
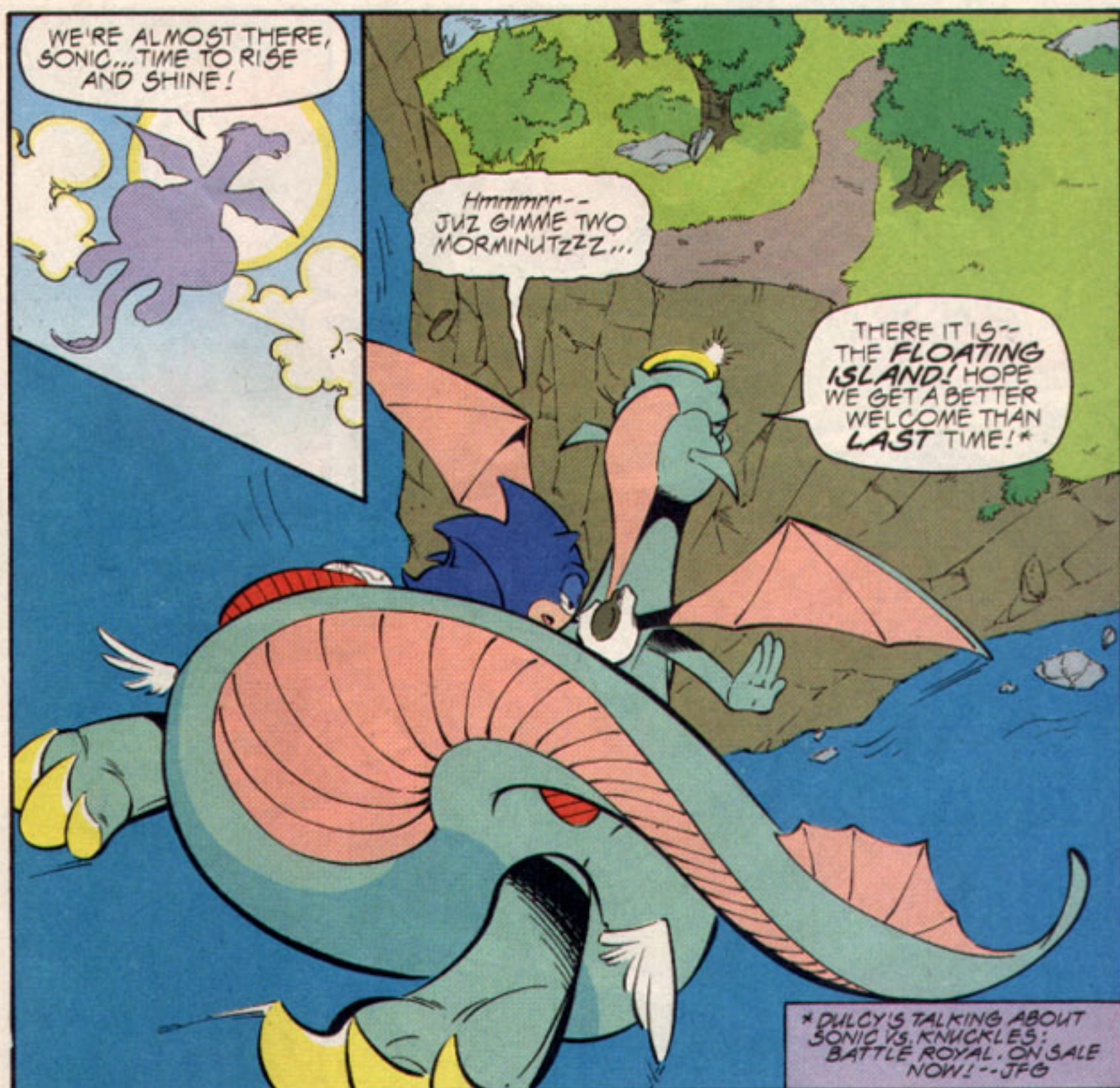
I SURVIVED
THE BLAST, BUT
NOT WITHOUT
HEAVY
STRUCTURAL
DAMAGE.

NEVERTHELESS,
I RECONSTRUCTED MY-
SELF, USING WHAT FRAG-
MENTS I COULD
FIND.

SOON AFTER, I
PICKED THROUGH THE
TWISTED **WRECKAGE**
OF ROBOTNIK'S
SUPPLY BLIMP AND
SALVAGED AS MANY
'BOT COMPONENTS
AS I COULD.

ONCE I RE-ASSEMBLED
THEM INTO AN **ARMY** USING
COM-BOT DESIGNS, I BEGAN
BUILDING THIS FACILITY
DESIGNED TO **CAPTURE**
AND **PUNISH** MY ENEMIES
AS WELL AS ENEMIES OF
ROBOTNIK!

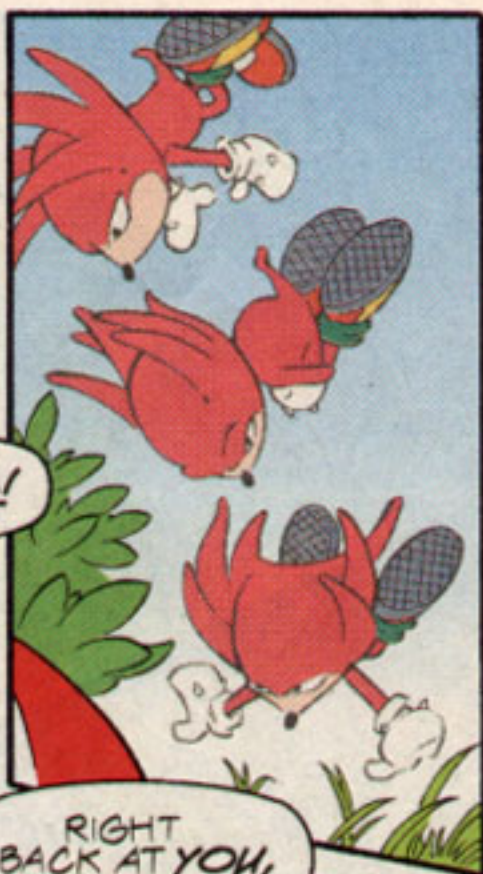






NOT IF I WHACK YOU *FIRST*, ECHIDNERD!

GLARRG!



RIGHT BACK AT YOU, SPINE SWINE!



HOOOMPH!



THAT DOES IT-- I'M GONNA HIT YOU SO *HARD*, IT'LL HURT YOUR *WHOLE FAMILY*!

BAH! I STEP OVER *PUNKS* LIKE YOU TO GET TO A *REAL FIGHT*-- C'MON!



ESCAPE From The FLOATING ISLAND

BACK OFF, KNUCKLES!
IF ANYONE'S TAKING THE
HEDGEHOG DOWN, IT'LL
BE **ME!**

FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS,
HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS
AND PLACE YOUR BETS! IT'S
THE ULTIMATE THREE-WAY
BATTLE OF THE **SEGA**
CENTURY!

WHO'S GOING TO FIGHT
WHO? WILL ANY TWO
COMBATANTS JOIN FORCES
AGAINST THE OTHER?

AND DOES ANYONE KNOW
OR CARE THAT THE FATE
OF AN ENTIRE PLANET
HANGS BY A THREAD?

TO BE CONCLUDED IN
THE ACTION-PACKED,
PULSE-POUNDING,
NOT-TO-BE-BELIEVED
(OR MISSED)

SONIC

50

WHO--?

ST. JOHN!

Brought to you with pride by

script MIKE GALLAGHER & KEN PENDERS penciler SAM MAXWELL

inker PAM EKLUND letterer JEFF POWELL colorist KARL BOLLERS

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SONIC PIN-UP

by

Nelson Ribeiro

Harvey Mercadoocasio



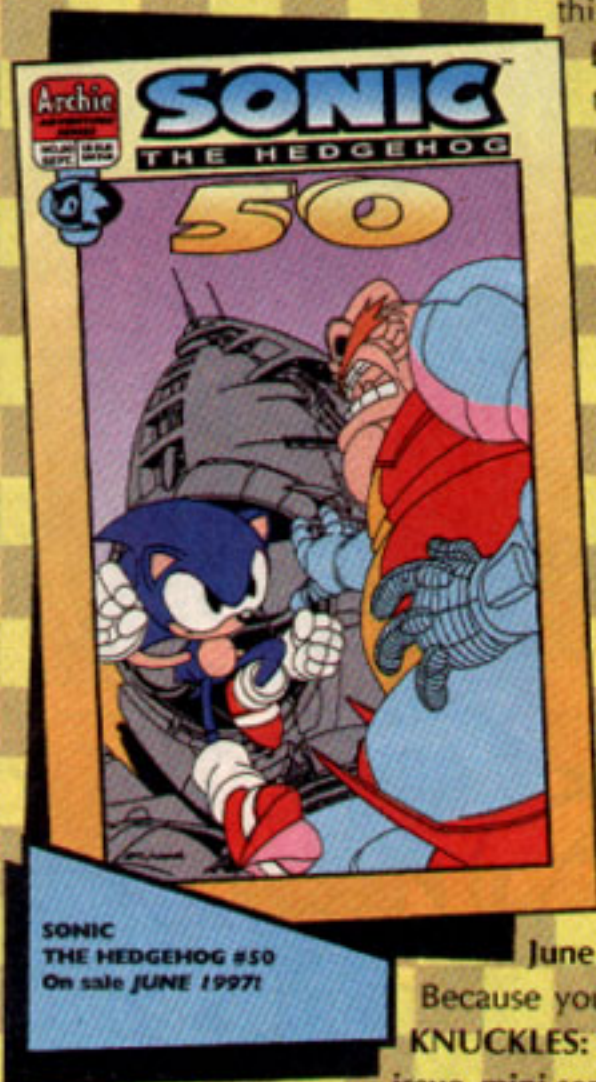
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J. Freddy Gabriele
Editor

THIS JUST IN!

NEXT ISSUE IS THE BIG FIVE-0!!!

Which is why it's fitting that it should be called "The Big Goodbye!" This one is everything you expect a fiftieth issue to be. The ultimate conclusion to the ultimate storyline in Sonic mythos. Who will Knuckles help: Sonic or St. John? Will Knothole Village be enslaved forever? How will the rest of The Freedom Fighters deal with current events? What is Robotnik's next move? Expect all this and more. **Plus:** The showdown you've been waiting for... Sonic Vs. Robotnik, once and for all the marbles. This special issue sports a computer-rendered cover and hosts almost every single writer and artist who **EVER** worked on Sonic. You heard it here first! **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #50** on sale June '97.



SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG #50
On sale JUNE 1997!

Because you, the fans, have demanded it: **KNUCKLES: THE DARK LEGION** three-issue mini-series has graduated to ongoing status beginning with issue #4! **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #4** presents a new chapter in the life of everyone's favorite echidna. "LOST PARADISE" reunites him with the one person he never expected to see, and presents him with an even bigger problem as the fabled city of Echidnaopolis reappears, posing a threat to The Floating Island's ecosystem! On sale late May '97! Continuing in the tradition of the first three issues, every three-issue story-arc will have a **triple-combo cover collection**. More about this next month!



KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA #4
On sale MAY 1997!

SEND LETTERS TO:
SONIC-GRAMS #49
C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX 419
MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419
e-mail address: SonicNotes@aol.com

P.S.: Also in **KNUCKLES #4** is the Knuckles' "Name the Letters Page" contest. Check it out, enter and win!

Because of limited space, the editors cannot guarantee that all correspondence will be published and reserve the right to edit messages as they see fit.

Dear Sonic- Grams,

I'm dropping you a line to give you my compliments on the series lately. I really enjoy the way the stories seem to carry over more from one issue to the next, no longer limiting themselves to one issue. Especially since King Acorn's return.

I'd like to point out that I'm twenty-three years old and a dedicated reader. While I do understand that you have many, many young readers... there are also many older readers like myself who read SONIC and KNUCKLES month after month. Just thought you'd like to know.

Brian King
Whitmire, SC

Oh, mah stars and garters. It's little ol' me... Bunnie Rabbot. The Downunda Freedom Fighters and Antoine are comin' up with a plan while ah answer your letters this month. Thanks for your generous compliment, dear sir. Our editorial staff try to keep a loose — what's that word again — continuity goin' in the books since the King's return. Why? 'Cause every issue brings its own little surprises and affects everybody in Mobius month after month.

Dear Sonic,

I watch SONIC on USA Network's Cartoon Express. I have a few questions: 1) Why does Sally kiss you and hug that skunk-dude (Geoffrey St. John) in issue #43? 2) In SONICQUEST #3, you used Silver Sonic's robot body to fight Robotnik. How is that possible when you fried it? 3) What is Dr. Robotnik's first name: Ivo or Julian? 4) If the Floating Island has only one

chaos emerald, how could Robotnik steal two emeralds in the SONICQUEST series? I gotta' buz', cuz'!

Steven Cash
Oxford, NC

Hey Sugah, what's shakin'? 1) Ah don't like St. John any more than you do... but you gotta' admit he's a hunk and a half. 2) As far as ah know, Sonic fried Silver Sonic's memory banks, deleting its programming to hurt Sonic and turned it on Robotnik. 3) Robotnik's first name is Julian. Ivo is his family name who he now uses as his first after adopting the name Robotnik. 4) In SUPER SONIC VS. HYPER KNUCKLES #1, Knuckles got a second emerald he keeps as a spare.

Dear Sonic-Grams,
First I'd like to congratulate Spaz and Manny Galan on the awesome artwork and Harvo on the incredible inks. Questions: 1) Is Julayla Sally's mom? 2) Did Carl Condor make an appearance before SONICQUEST #1? 3) Is Knuckles ever gonna get his own series? He deserves one. 4) Is Archimedes now a part of the Chaotix? So until Sally starts going out with Robuttnik...

Andrew Cline
Dolton, GA

Even as ah speak, Spaz, Manny and Harvo are makin' their bows of thanks. 1) No, Julayla was Sally's mentor (teacher). Her cousin Rosie was (and at times still thinks she is) Sally's nanny. Julayla passed away in SONIC #18. 2) No, that was his first appearance. 3) Rad Red finally did it. He's got his own book. Read the editorial for more details. 4) Ah think so.



Dear Sonic and Co.,

The Death Egg Saga was hilarious! I laughed all the way through, especially the part where Antoine gets lost... and Snivopolis! I thought you guys did a wonderful job. 'Til issue 100!

Kendra "Kat" Kountz
Kflexo

Thanks for your compliment on those issues. It was definitely an interesting experience (except when Sugah-Twan had us going around in circles).

Hey, Team Sonic,

Here it is in a nutshell: Sally should pass away. Whether she comes back or not (you know how comic book death works after all...) is up to you, but you can only avoid real-life topics so long before it gets stale. Anyone who doesn't agree can watch Barney. As for me, I'll still look forward to another issue of Sonic, no matter what. I read it because its a comic book, remember?

Kerri Vines
kicks@gwn.org

Kerri is one opinionated gal ah could look up to. Thanks for sharin' your views with us, sugah.

Check out the next issue. It starts with SONIC and ends with the number fifty. All this and a computer-rendered cover by you know who. You'll be kickin' yourself if ya miss it. So don't. Y'all come back in thirty days, ya' hear?